～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

絶園のテンペスト

原作：城平京
構成：左有秀
作画：彩崎廉

7

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GC
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SQUARE ENIX.

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GC ガンガンコミックス

彩崎廉

バスケチームに入りました。
またスリーポイント入るようになりたいとか色々目標はありますが、
1番の目標は「今年中に初練習に行く時間を作る」です。

絶園のテンペスト

7

～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

Author : Shirodaira Kyou
Script : Sano Arihide
Artist : Saizaki Ren

絶園のテンペスト 7

~THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER~

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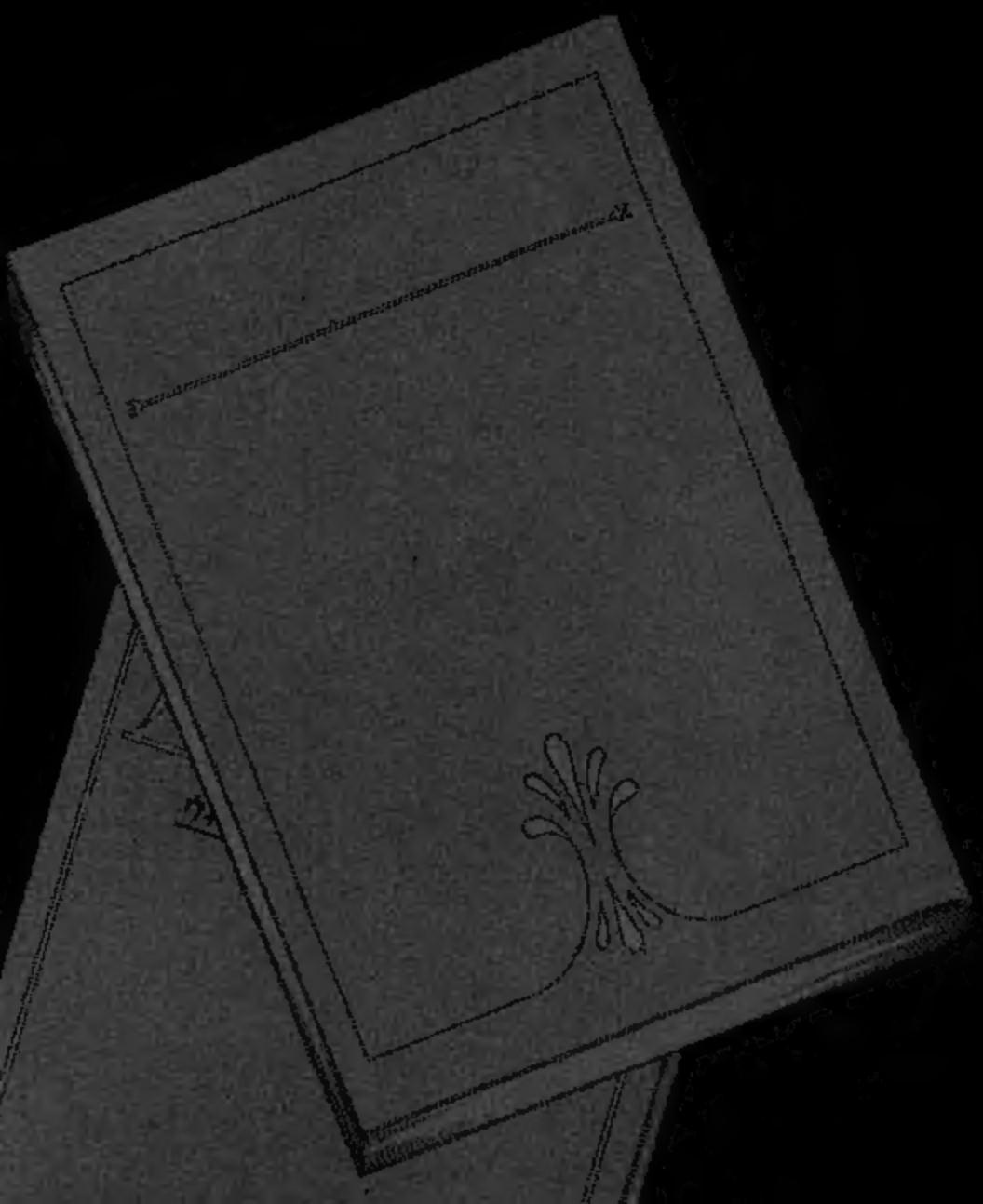
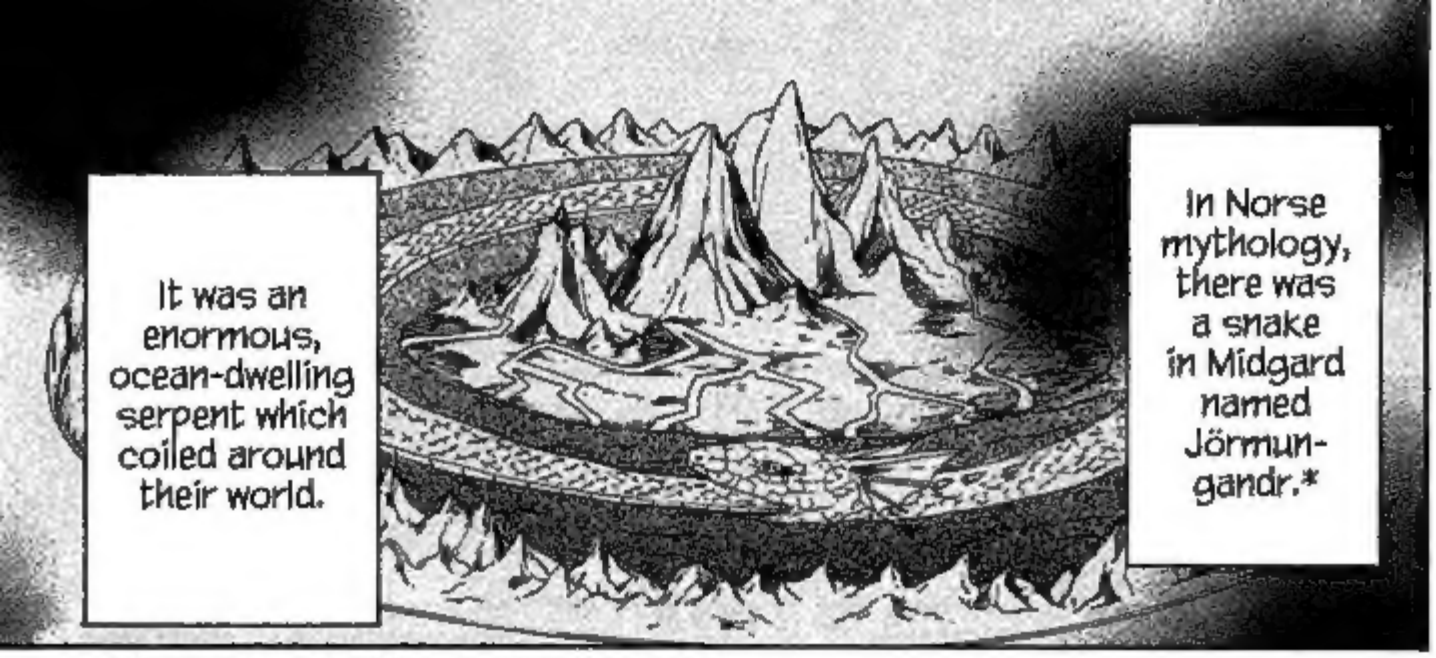


Chapter 30: Object of Desire

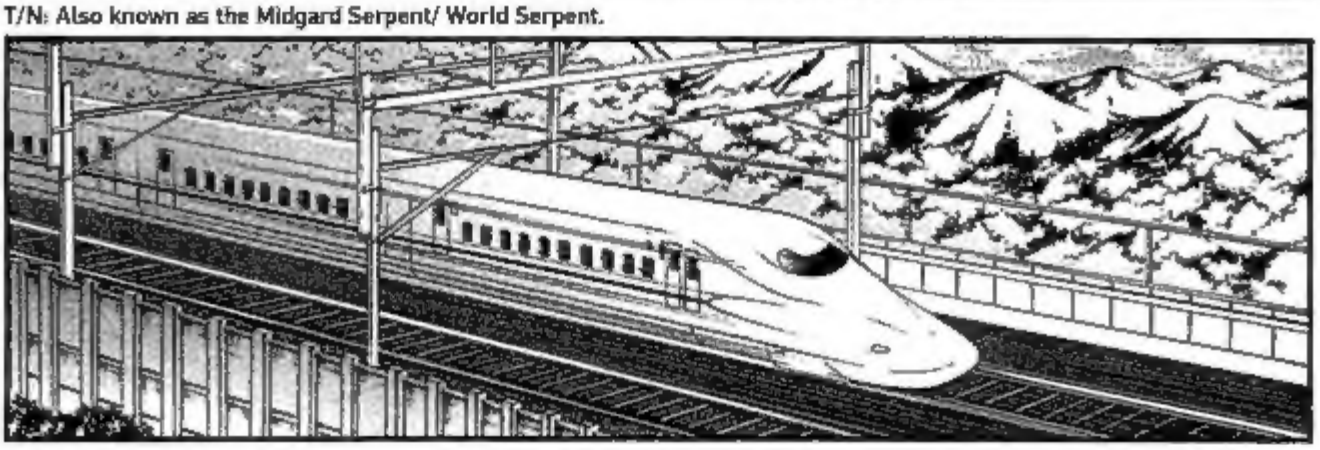
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

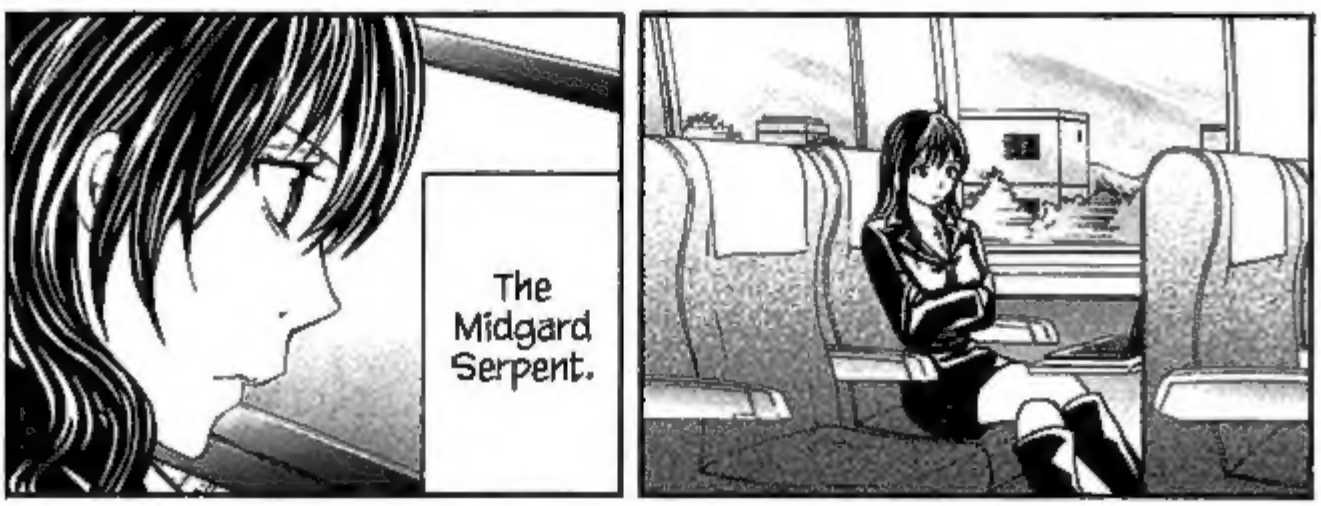
LOOK AROUND HERE FOR A BARREL AND A WOODEN DOLL.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE THEY FOR?
A BARREL LARGE ENOUGH FOR A PERSON TO FIT INSIDE ...
AND A DARK BROWN, HAND-HELD DOLL.
WHY WOULD THINGS LIKE THAT TURN UP HERE?
THERE WOULD BE AN OFFICIAL PHOTO OR SOMETHING, BUT ALL WE HAVE IS A SKETCH.
· Dark brown
· Hand-held
· Dirty
· Words near the bottom
ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
NORMALLY ...

I DON'T WANT TO BE WOR-KING HERE FOREVER.
WHAT THEN?
BUT WHAT IF WE NEVER FIND THE BARREL AND DOLL?

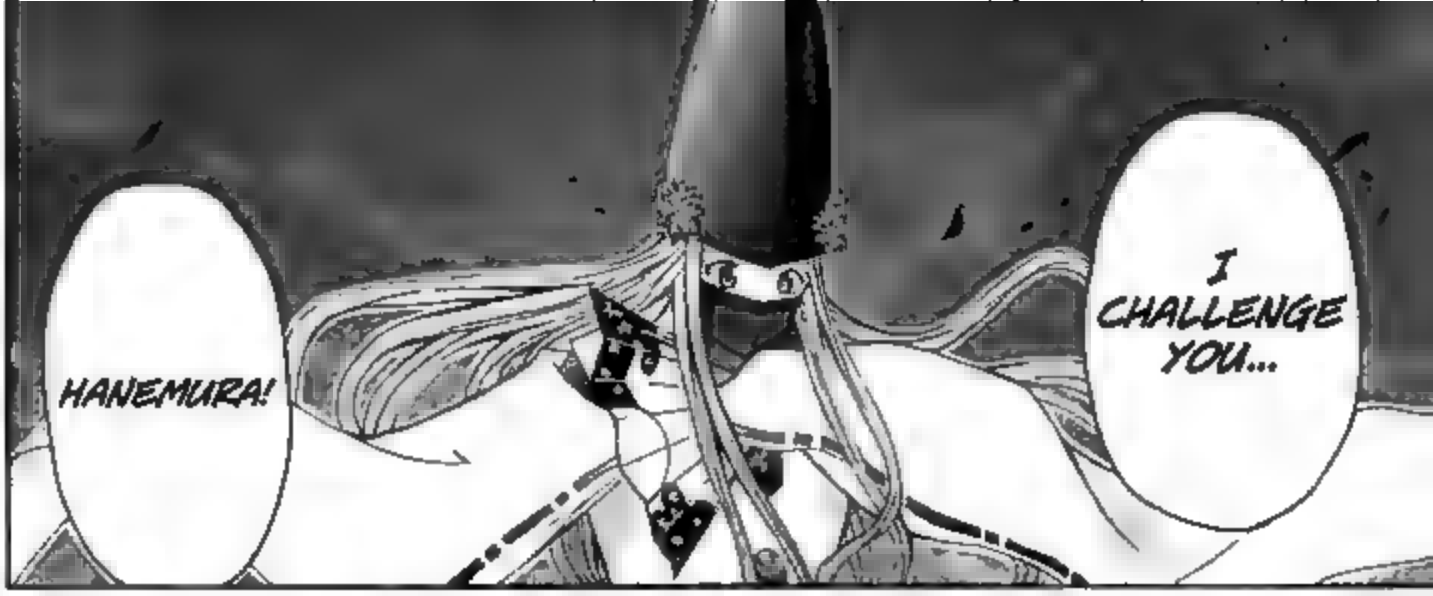

It was an enormous, ocean-dwelling serpent which coiled around their world.
In Norse mythology, there was a snake in Midgard named Jörmungandr.*

T/N: Also known as the Midgard Serpent/ World Serpent.



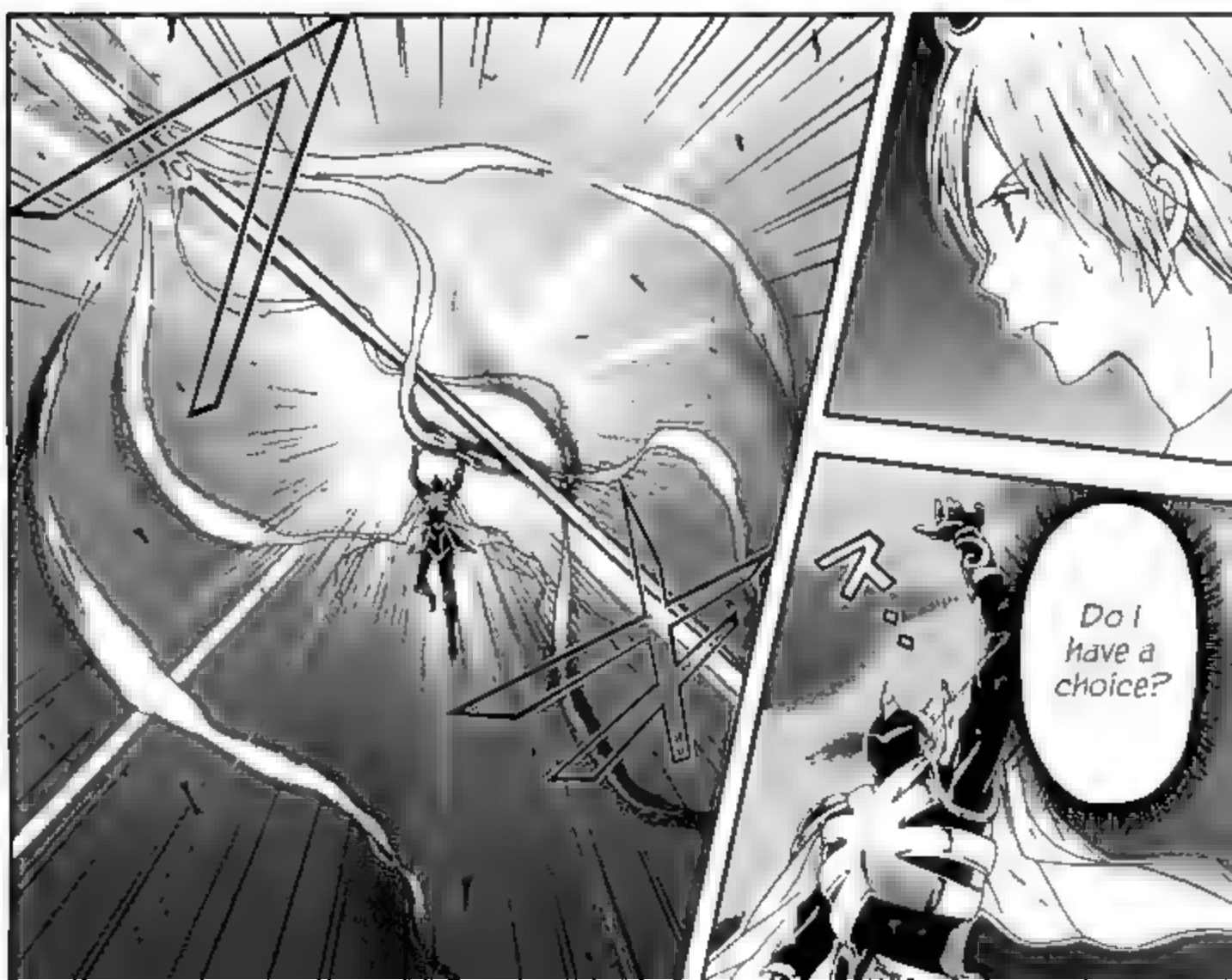


HAKAZE-SAN...
ISN'T THIS GOING AGAINST OUR AGREEMENT?
THEY'RE MOVING THE BATTLE TO THE BASEBALL STADIUM. RIGHT BEFORE THE OPENING GAME!

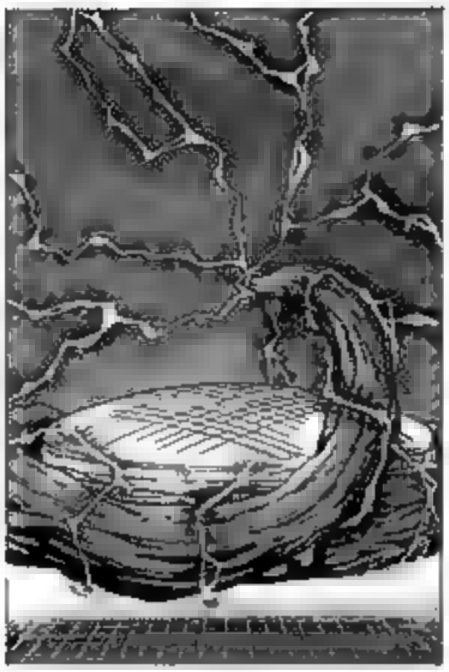

HANEMURA!
I CHALLENGE YOU...

WON'T BASEBALL FANS RESENT THEM FOR DESTROYING THE STADIUM RIGHT BEFORE THE OPENING GAME?

CAN YOU DESTROY THE TREE ...
WITHOUT DAMAGING THE STADIUM THAT IT'S WRAPPED AROUND?


Do I have a choice?

HA!



▲ Electric shock from The Mage of Exodus speeding towards the dome.

MAGE OF EXODUS DEFEATS MAIHIME!!

DOME IN DISORDER NEARLY 1 MILLION PEOPLE ...!

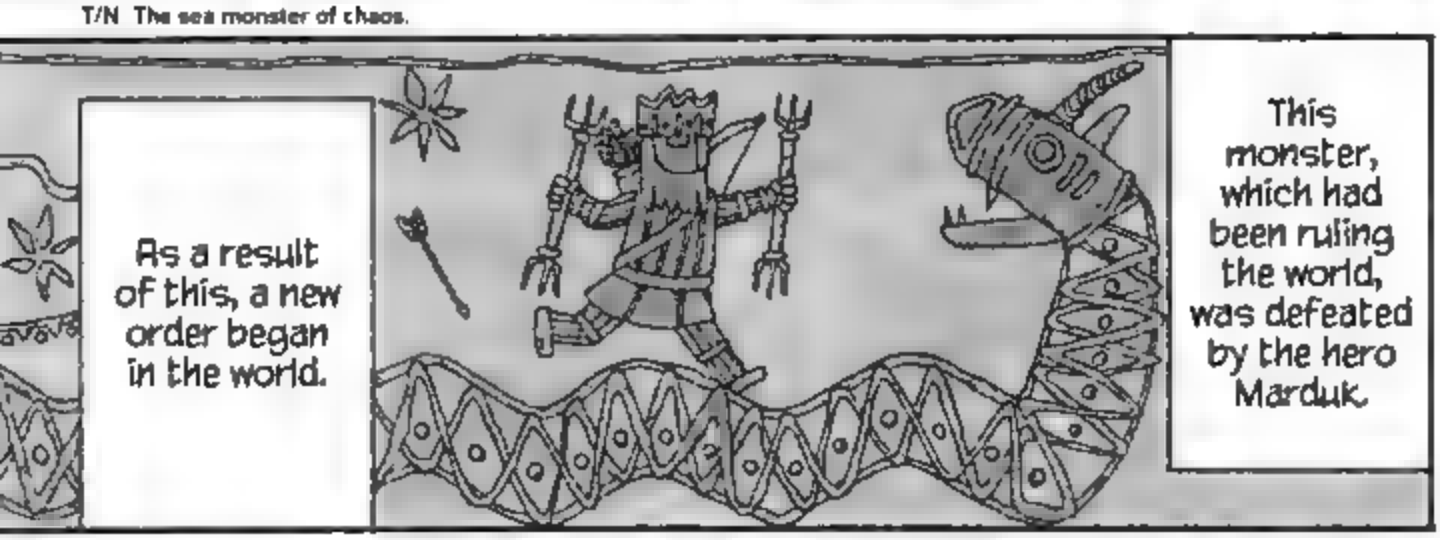
...it Maihime instantly returns it to its original state

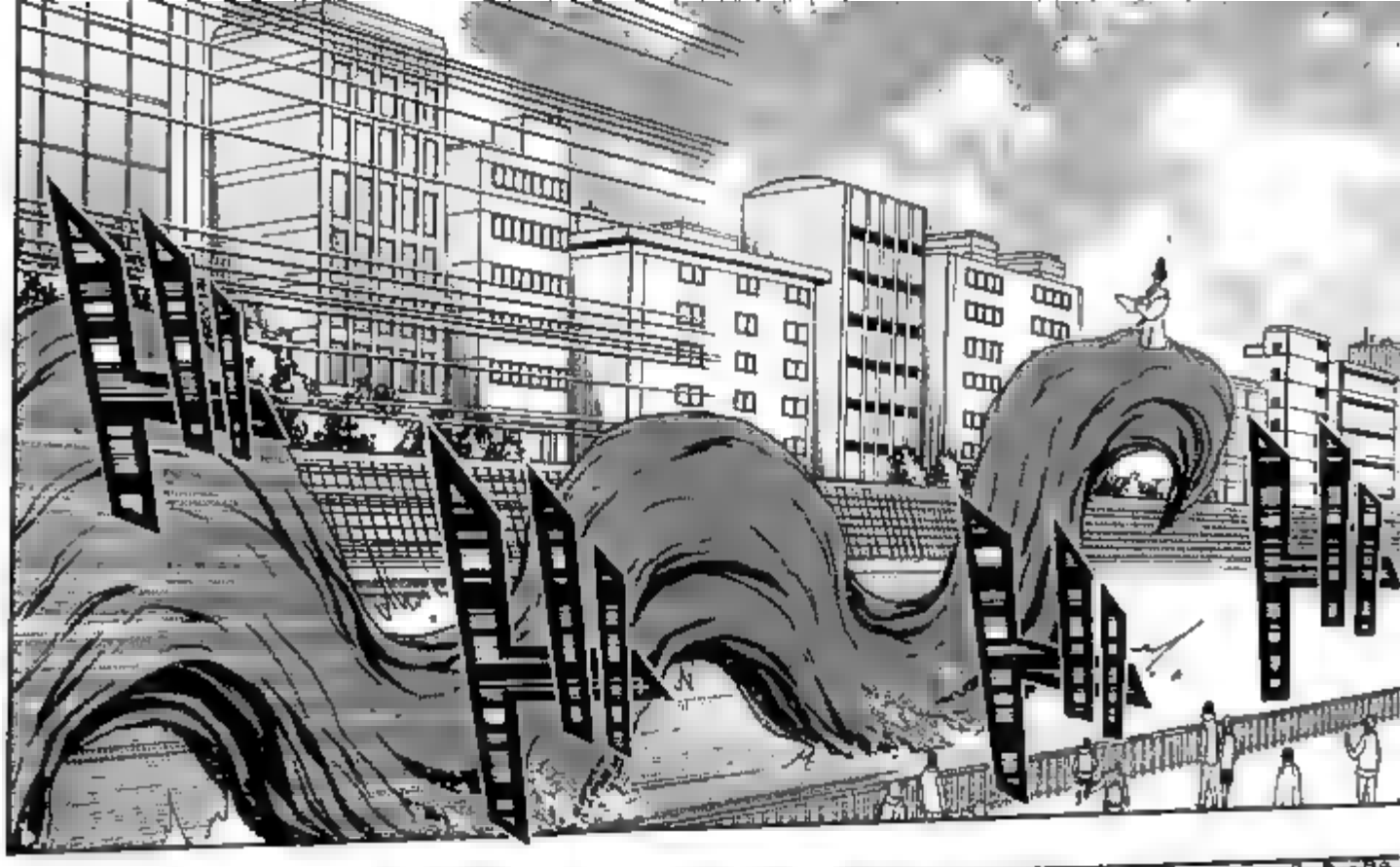
NO DAMAGE REPORTED.

MAGE OF EXODUS DESTROYS STADIUM

Is Maihime an enemy or an ally?!

T/N The sea monster of chaos.


As a result of this, a new order began in the world.
This monster, which had been ruling the world, was defeated by the hero Marduk.



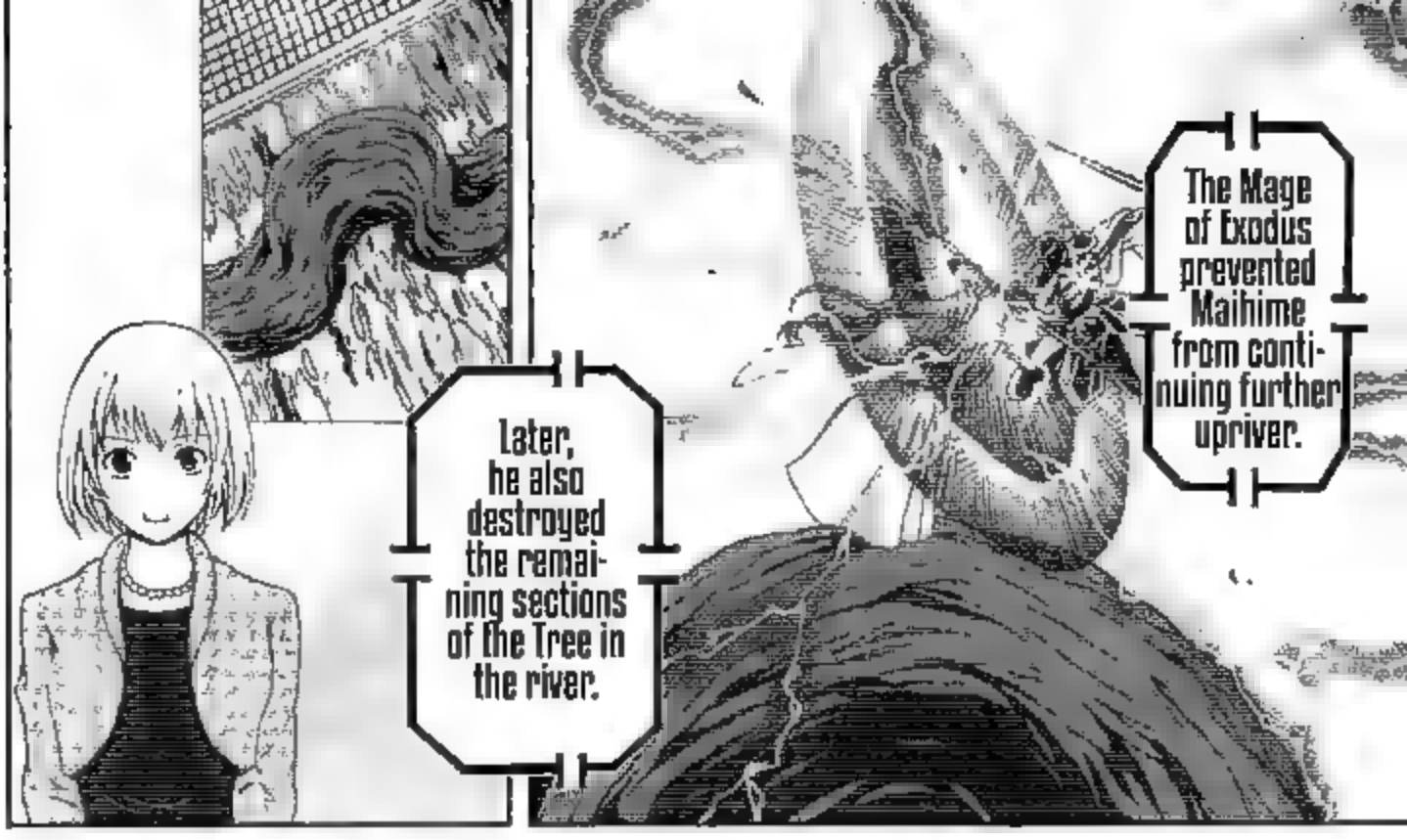
THE TREE WILL COMPLETELY FILL THE RIVER
HANE-MURA, IF YOU DON'T STOP ME SOON...

YOU KEEP HEADING UPSTREAM WITH THE TREE.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

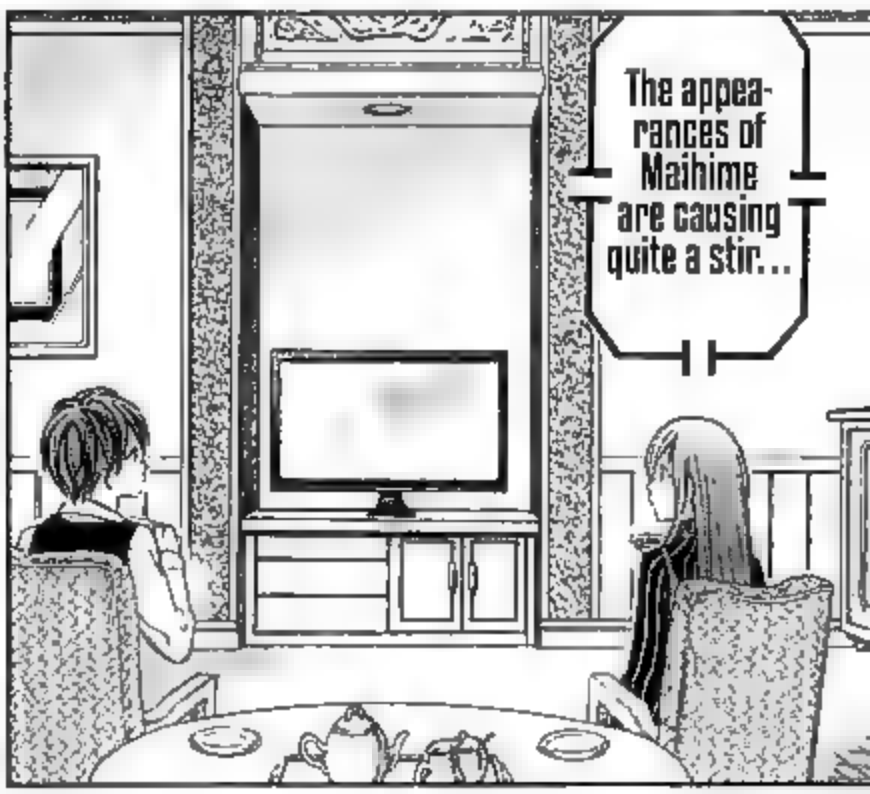
IF I'M FORCED OUT OF THE WATER, THEN IT WILL BE YOUR VICTORY.
SHALL WE TRY CLOSE-COMBAT THIS TIME?
ポン
GOOD LUCK.
THE SPECTATORS UNDERSTAND THAT AS WELL.
I WON'T HOLD BACK!

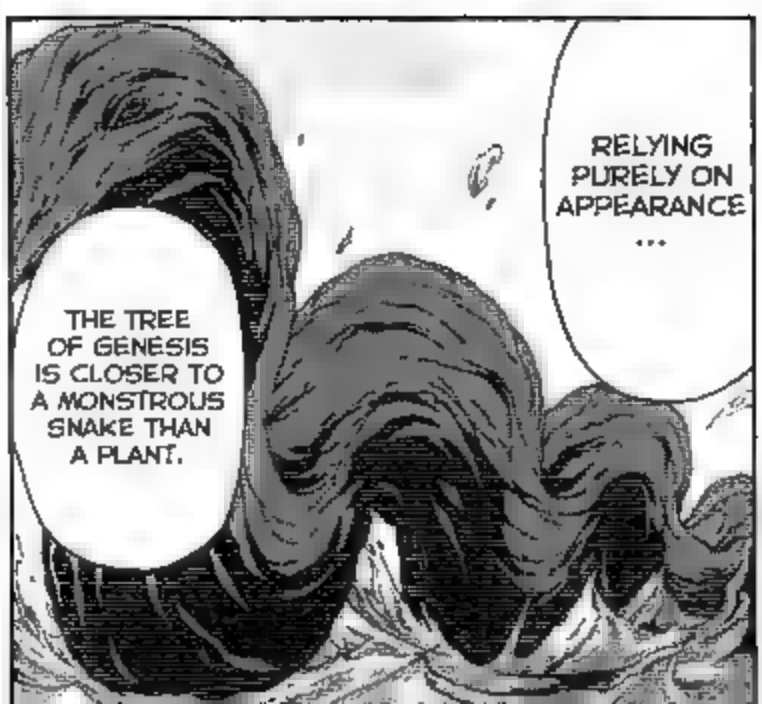
AH...
BUT I AM GOING TO HOLD BACK.
...
Heh

UH...!
UGH...
The river is too narrow!
IF I use my power recklessly, it'll completely destroy the area!
This...
This is really happening—

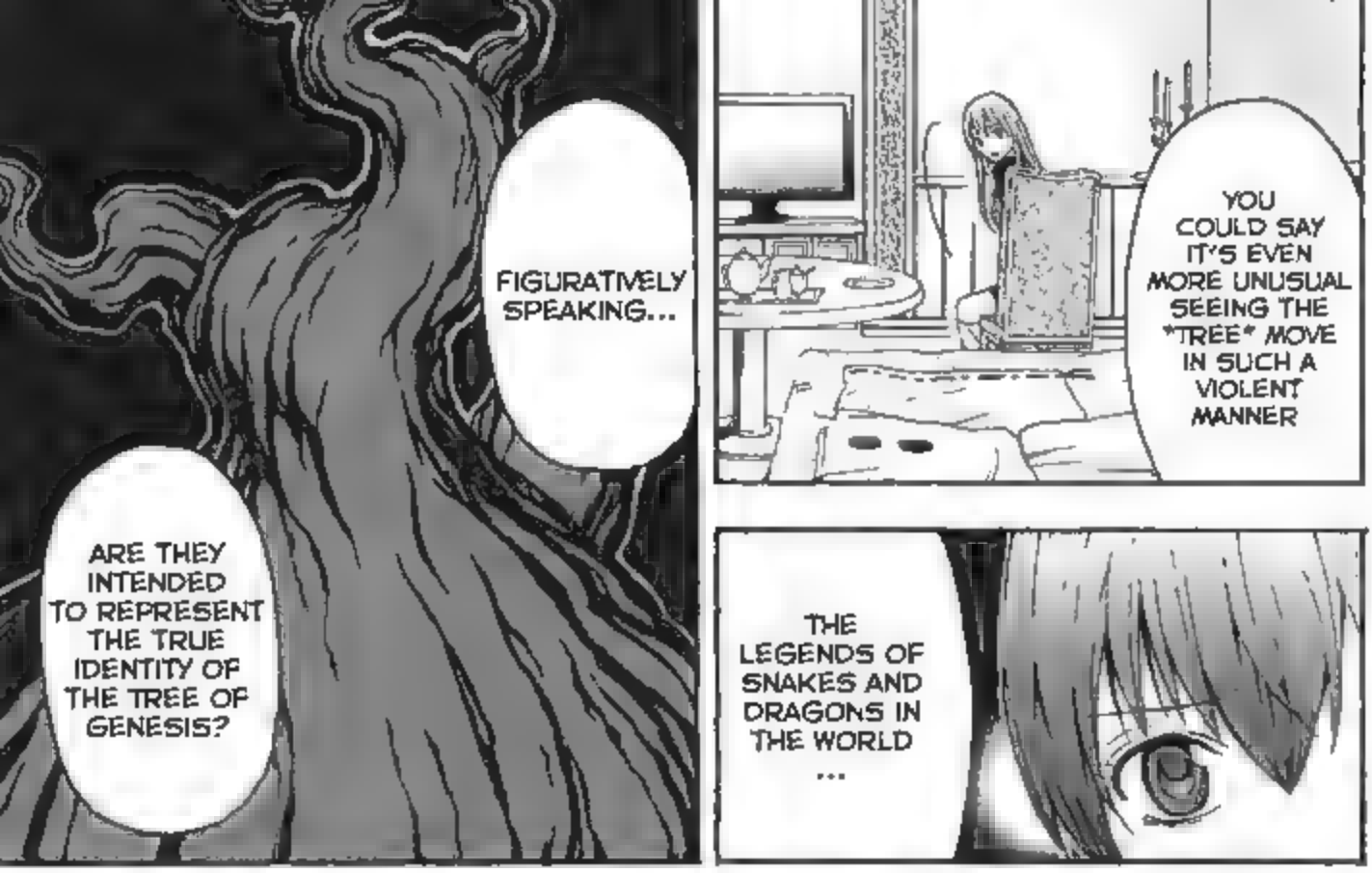

The Mage of Exodus prevented Maihime from continuing further upriver.
Later, he also destroyed the remaining sections of the Tree in the river.

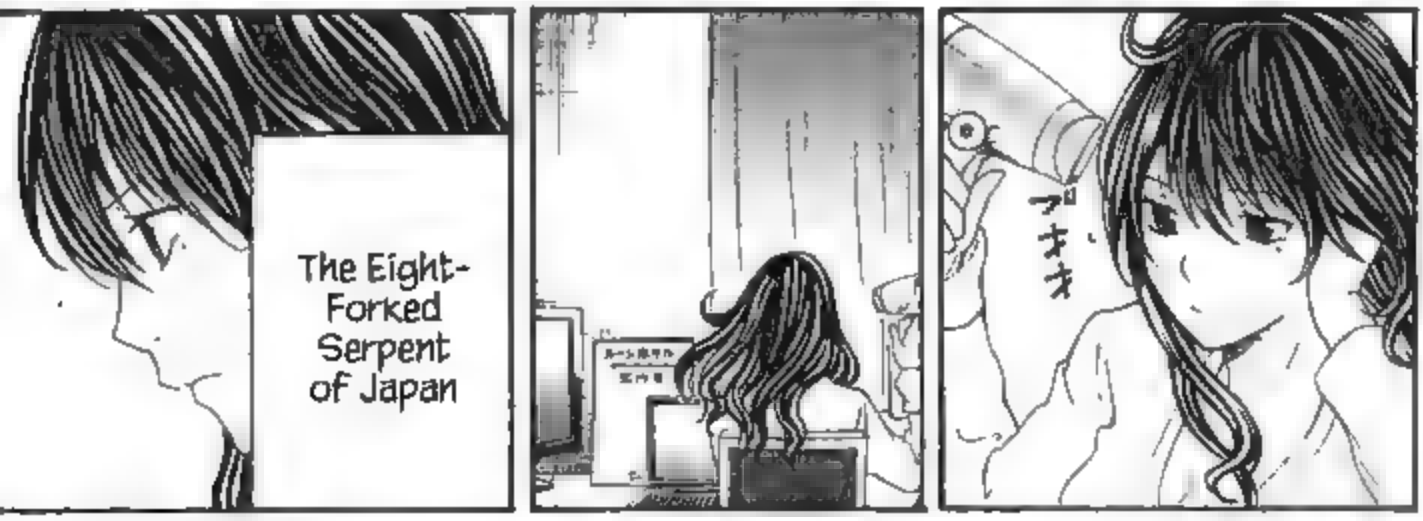
AFTER WATCHING THAT...
I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT THE TREE OF GENESIS BEHAVES LIKE A SNAKE.


The appearances of Maihime are causing quite a stir...


RELYING PURELY ON APPEARANCE ...
THE TREE OF GENESIS IS CLOSER TO A MONSTROUS SNAKE THAN A PLANT.

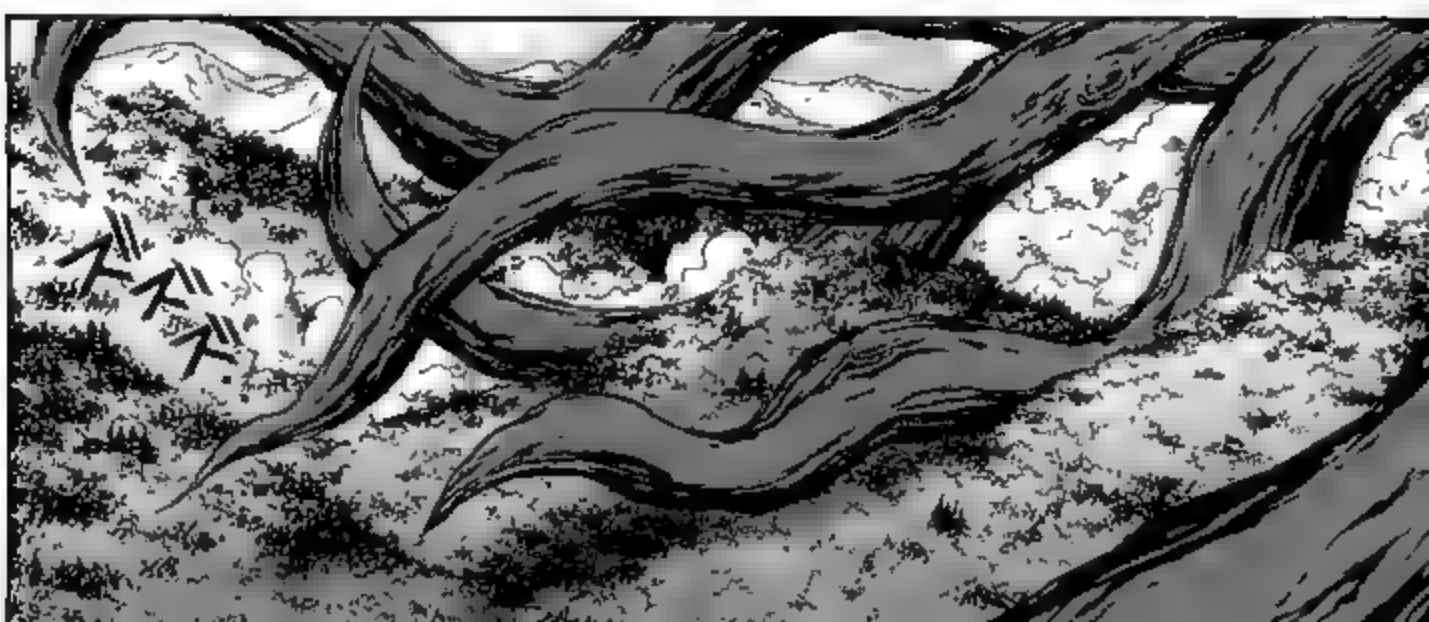
IT'S LONG AND NARROW, SO NATURALLY IT MOVES WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF EFFICIENCY.
IT CERTAINLY DOES HAVE SNAKE LIKE TRAITS.


FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING...
ARE THEY INTENDED TO REPRESENT THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE TREE OF GENESIS?
YOU COULD SAY IT'S EVEN MORE UNUSUAL SEEING THE "TREE" MOVE IN SUCH A VIOLENT MANNER
THE LEGENDS OF SNAKES AND DRAGONS IN THE WORLD ...



T/N: God of sea and storms.

The one known as Susanoo no Mikoto* defeated this serpent and a new country was made.
It had 8 heads and was large enough to crawl through 8 valleys and over 8 mountains simultaneously.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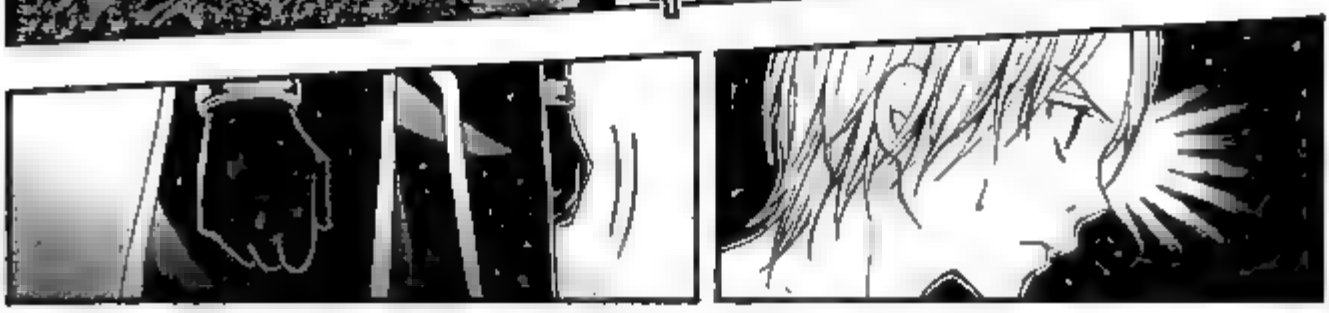
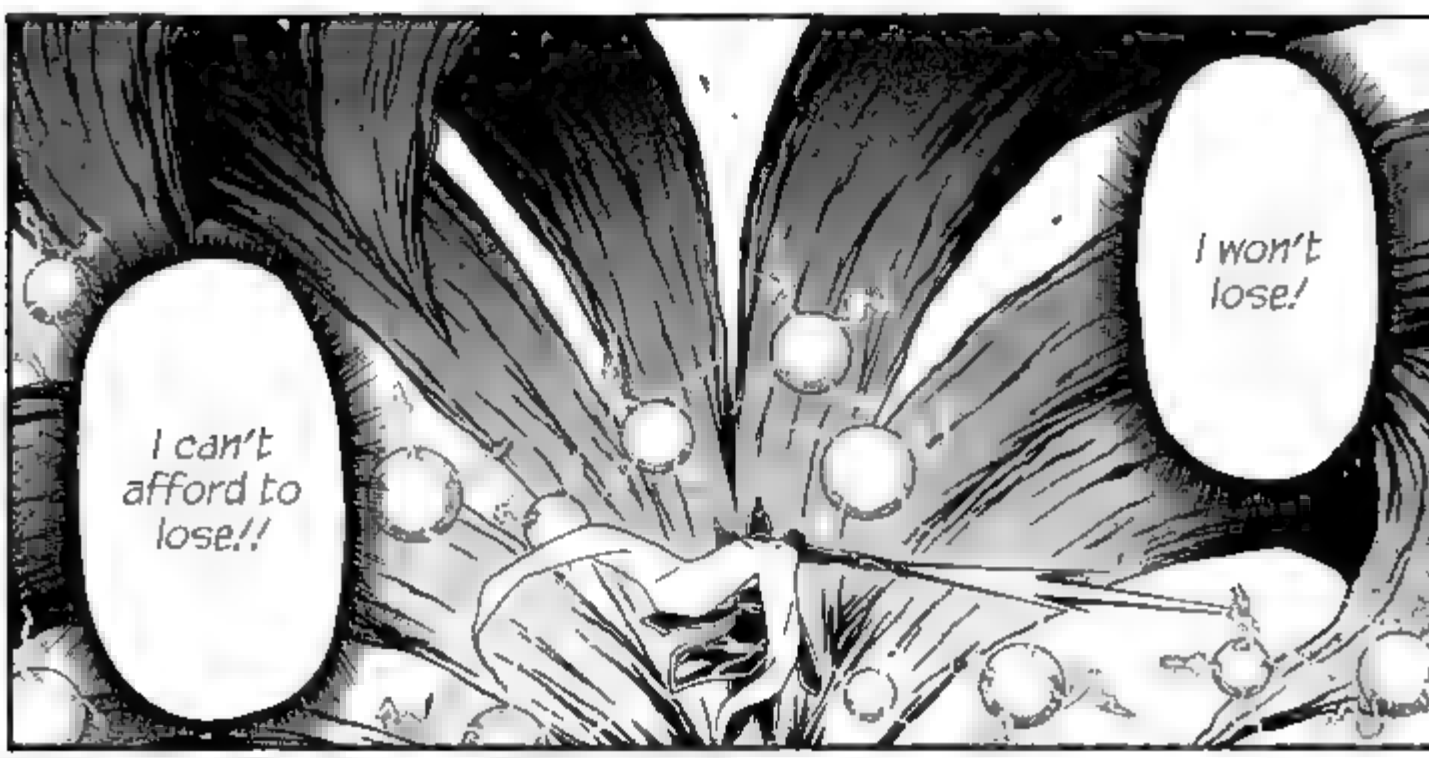
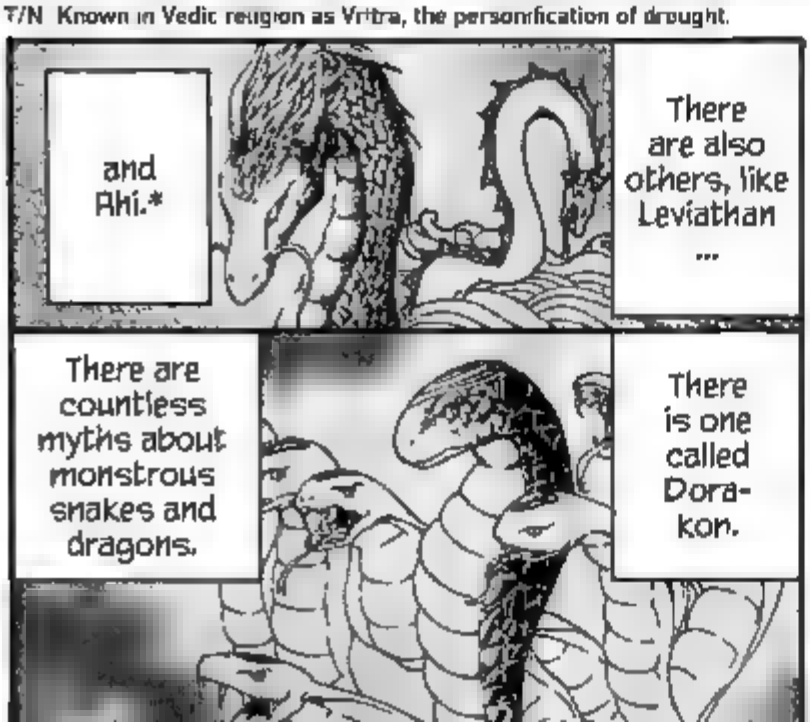
HANEMURA
...
EVEN THIS IS MERELY A SMALL PORTION OF THE TREE OF GENESIS.
At the same time?!
Hakaze-san can control all of these huge objects ...

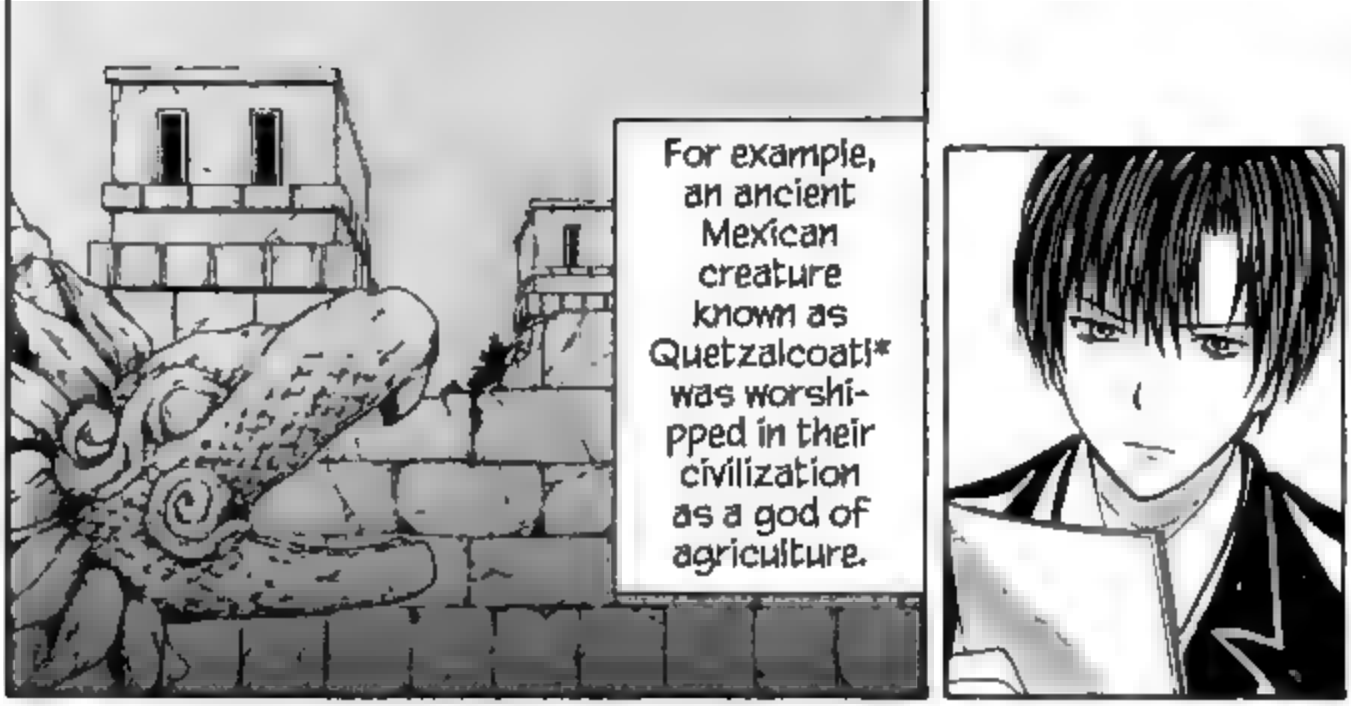




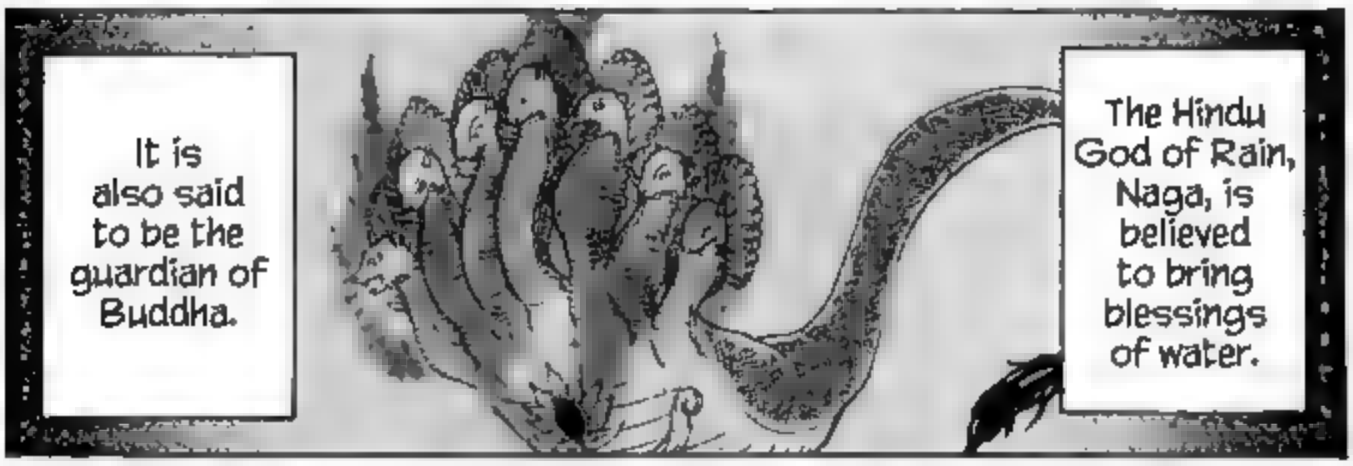
T/N Known in Vedic religion as Vritra, the personification of drought.


and Ahi.*
There are also others, like Leviathan ...
There are countless myths about monstrous snakes and dragons.
There is one called Dora-kon.

resulting in the beginning of a new world; a new order.
Each and every one was conquered by a hero ...
OOH!
Conversely, snakes and dragons are venerated as gods by some.
Can I really defeat it?!
I can't even destroy a third ...

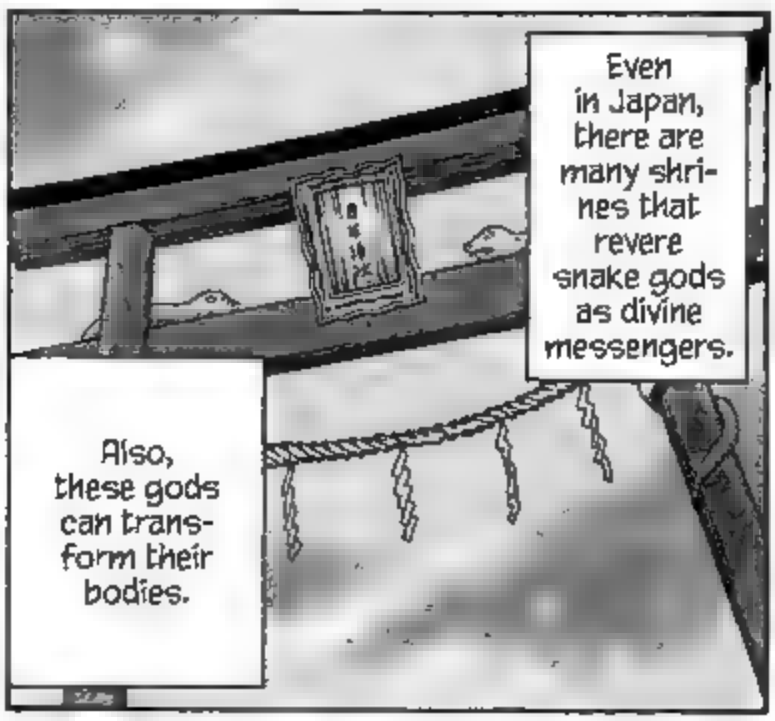

For example, an ancient Mexican creature known as Quetzalcoatl* was worshipped in their civilization as a god of agriculture.

T/N: Feathered serpent



I'm starting to think that it can't be broken!
It's not breaking with destructive force!

Snakes and dragons alike were originally gods who were portrayed as monsters that it was possible to defeat.

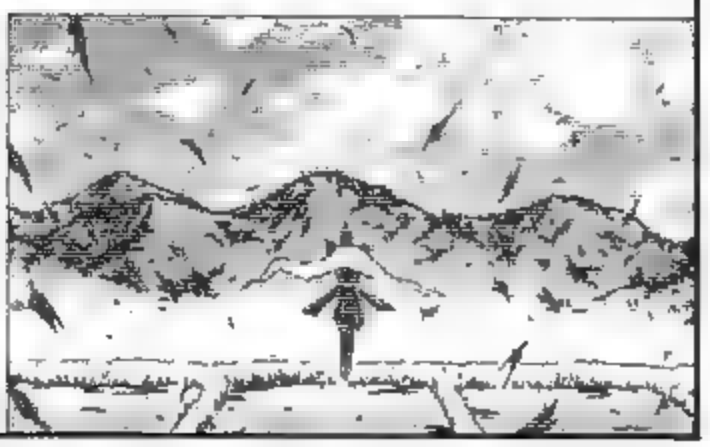

Even in Japan, there are many shrines that revere snake gods as divine messengers.
Also, these gods can transform their bodies.

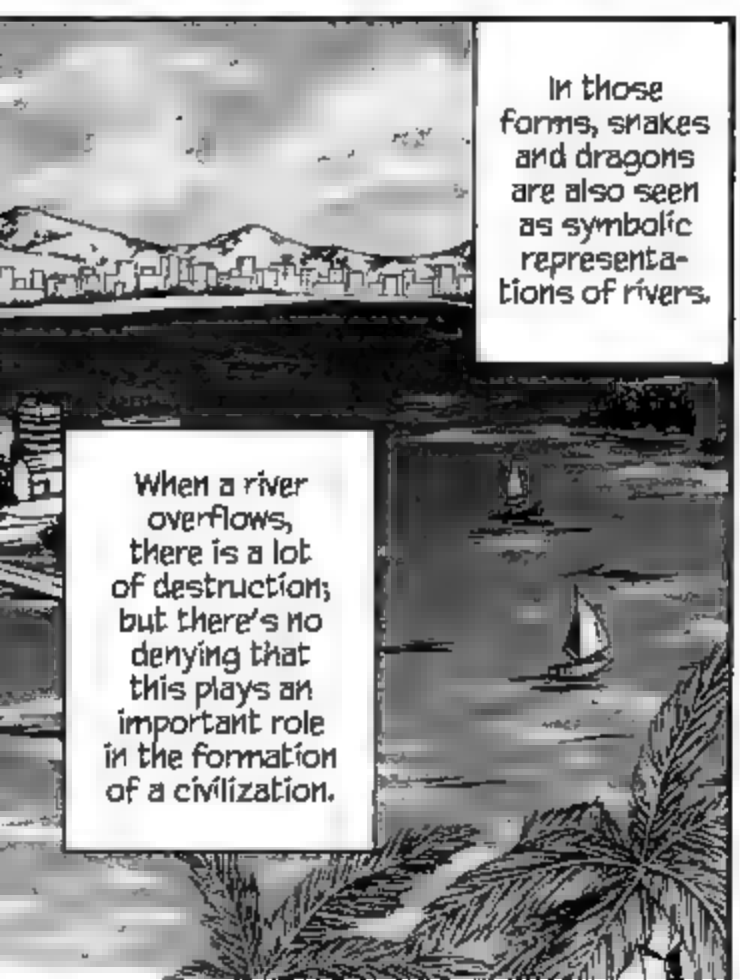
I WILL TEAR ITS ENTIRE EXISTENCE
TO SHREDS!!

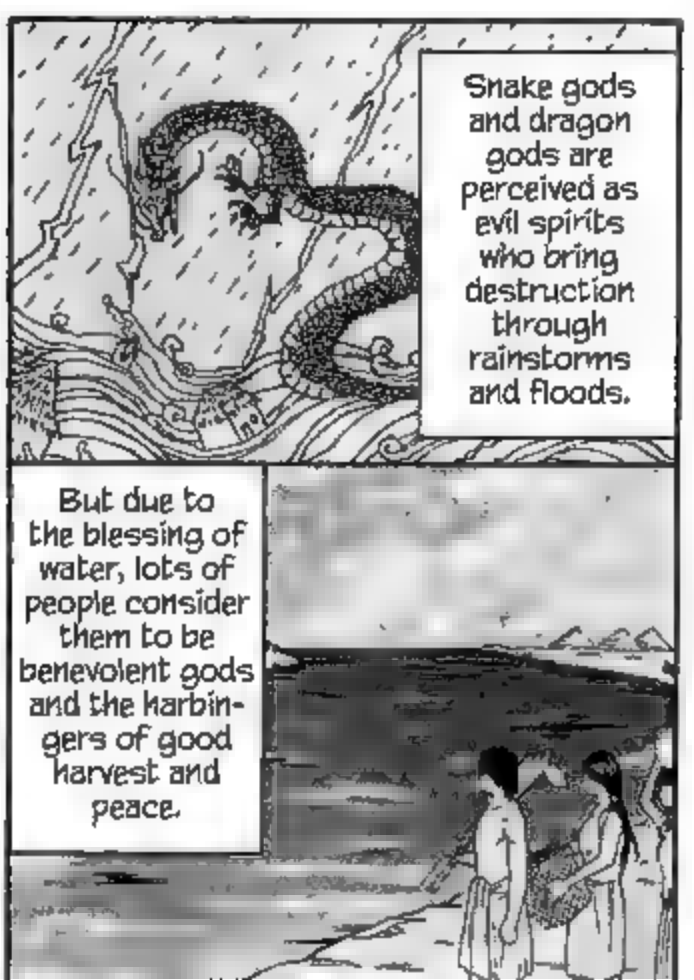
Top news ⇦ ← Next

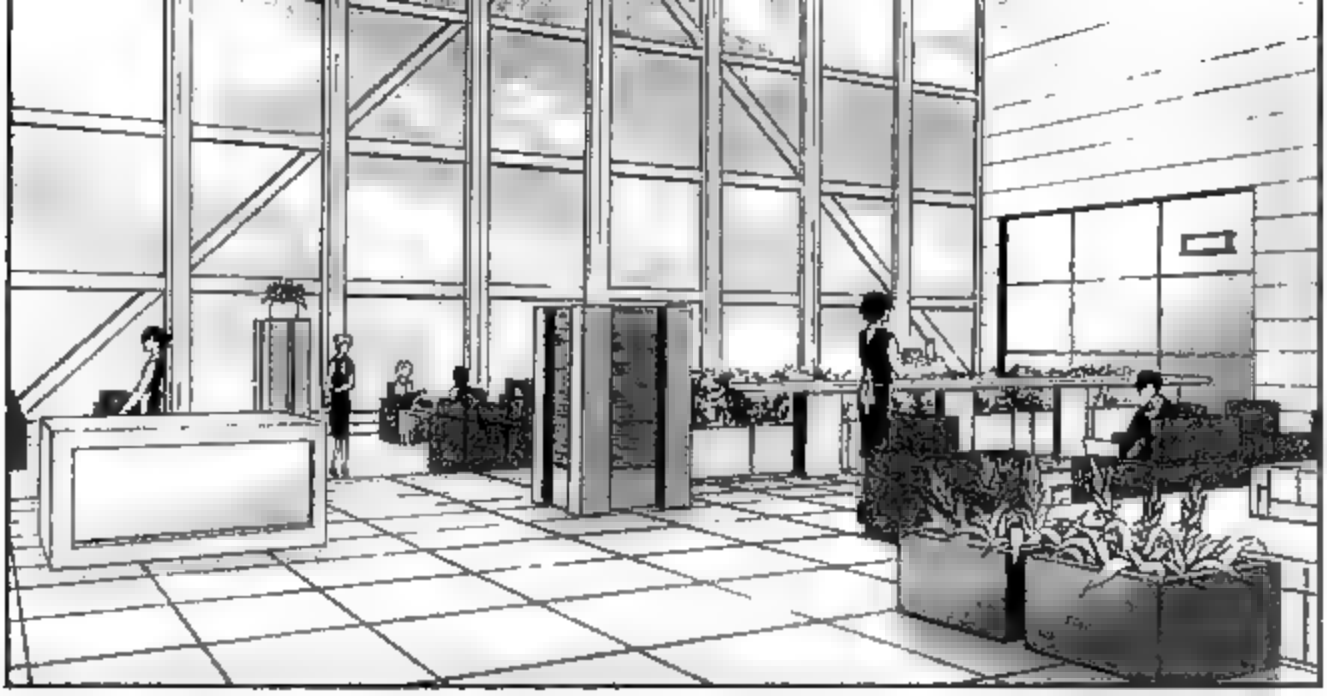
Mage of Exodus miracle!!
He destroyed a 1km length of Tree!

20XX/XX/XX



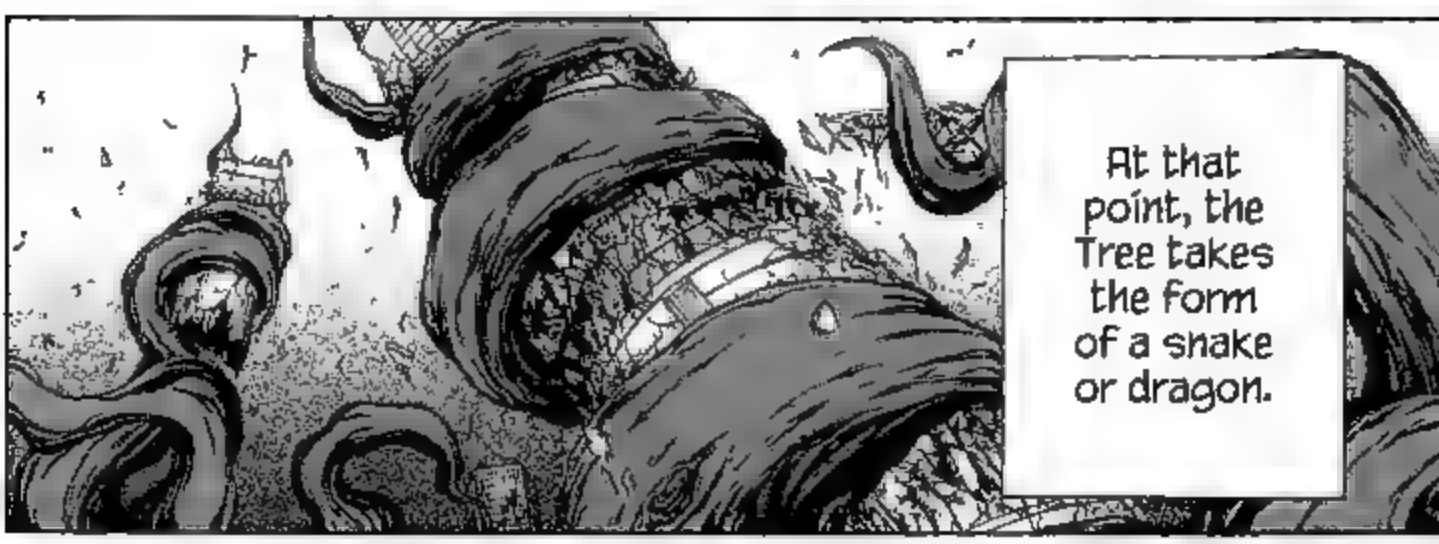

In those forms, snakes and dragons are also seen as symbolic representations of rivers.
When a river overflows, there is a lot of destruction; but there's no denying that this plays an important role in the formation of a civilization.


Snake gods and dragon gods are perceived as evil spirits who bring destruction through rainstorms and floods.
But due to the blessing of water, lots of people consider them to be benevolent gods and the harbingers of good harvest and peace.



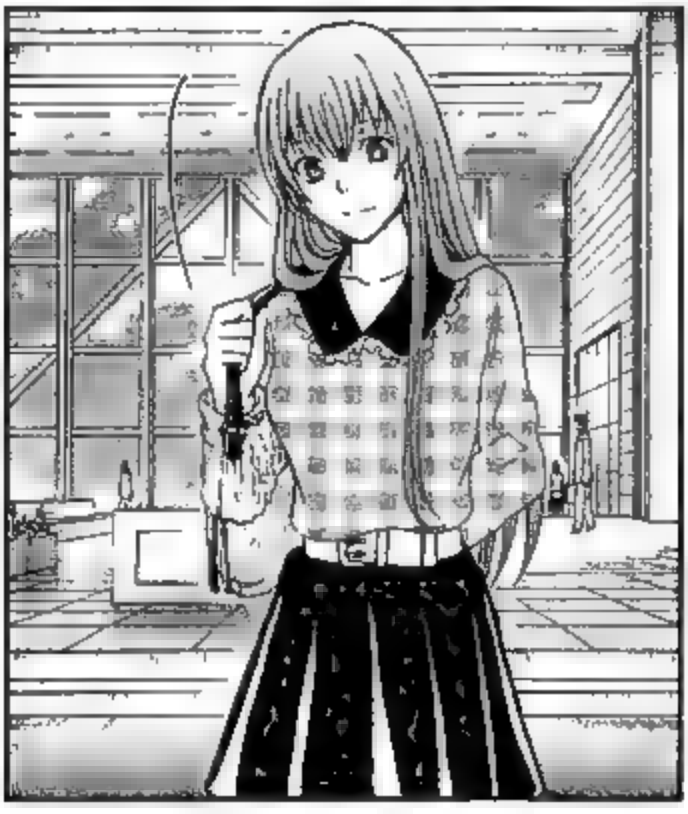
A benevolent god which brings blessings and civilization.
But once enraged, it turns into an evil spirit which swallows civilization.

That's the Tree of Genesis, all right.


At that point, the Tree takes the form of a snake or dragon.

In this world, all that remains of snake and dragon gods are legends.

It is believed that the Tree of Genesis, which brought chaos to the world, can alter its form.
During a rampage, in which it consumes civilization, the tree's form is analogous to that of a snake or dragon; due to this, it has remained in folklore as a snake or dragon god.



DID YOU GET HERE A LITTLE EARLY ...
FRAULEIN?

AND RESEARCHING A COUPLE OF THINGS.

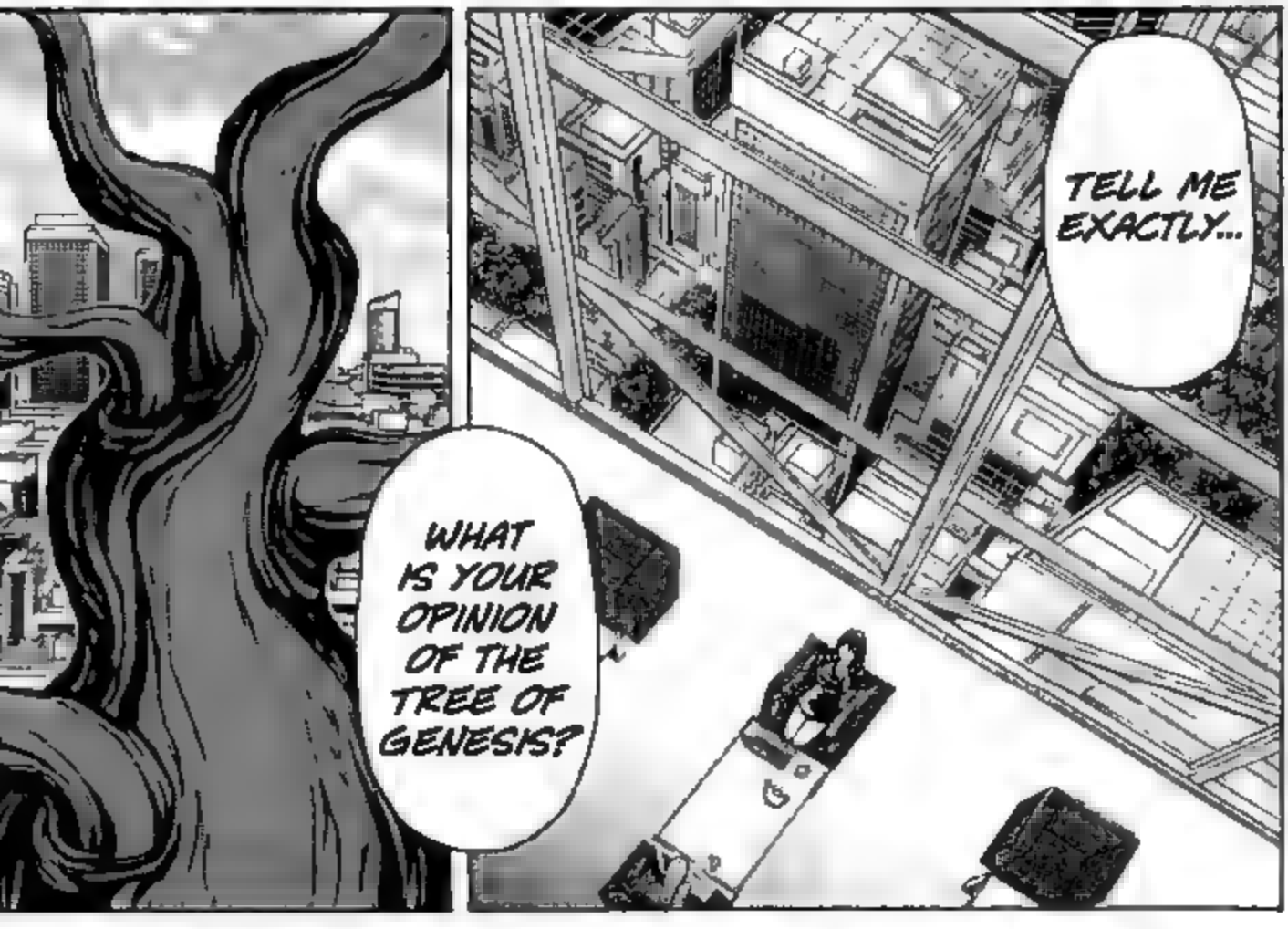
NO.
I WAS JUST FINISHING BREAKFAST...

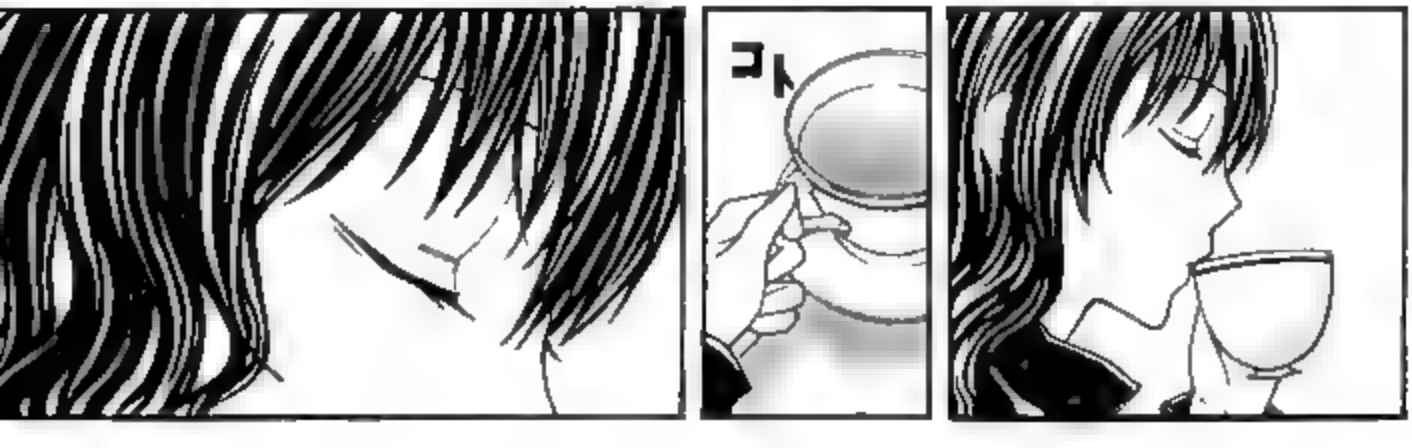
AFTER THAT HUGE BATTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS...
IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT HANEMURA-KUN IS UTTERLY EXHAUSTED.
ONE MORE THING ...
COULD YOU PLEASE LAY LOW FOR A WHILE?
THAT WAS PRETTY SCARY, YOU KNOW.
HE HAD TO DESTROY OVER 1 KM OF THAT HUGE TREE BY HIMSELF.
HUH?
HE'S SO WEAK.
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS DESTROYED AND I'M FINE AREN'T I?
THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME TO MEET YOU HERE.
I APPRECIATE IT.
ANYWAY ...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, FRAULEIN.

I JUST TALKED WITH YOSHINO.
IT'S A COMPLETE MYSTERY AS TO WHETHER THE TREE OF GENESIS IS HOSTILE OR NOT.
EVENTUALLY, HE WANTED A BETTER EXPLANATION.
WELL, I'VE BEEN GIVING NOTHING BUT VAGUE ANSWERS TO YOSHINO-KUN.
SINCE THEN, I'VE FORMED A PLAUSIBLE HYPOTHESIS ...
THAT MAKES THE TIMING OF THIS CONVERSATION PERFECT.
IF THE SNAKE AND DRAGON GODS FROM TRADITION ARE RELATED TO THE TREE OF GENESIS...
IT APPEARS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WHICH CREATED EVERYTHING IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS WORLD.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...

IN DRAWINGS, THEY ARE DEPICTED AS DREADFUL THINGS.
EVEN THOUGH SNAKES AND DRAGONS ARE CONSIDERED OBJECTS OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF...
THERE IS STILL A CONSTANT FEAR SURROUNDING THEM.
AS WITH ANY TRADITION ...
THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT CAN DEFEAT IT.
IF THERE WERE A GOD OF GENESIS ..
IT WOULD BE SPOKEN IN MORE POSITIVE TERMS, AS A FOCUS OF WORSHIP.
INDEED.
COMING FROM ANOTHER PLACE...
AND BRINGING HARM, THEY SEEM MORE LIKE INVADERS.

FRAULEIN.
SO...


WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE TREE OF GENESIS?
TELL ME EXACTLY...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I THINK IT WAS CREATED BY AN ALIEN RACE...
AS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRU-CTION.

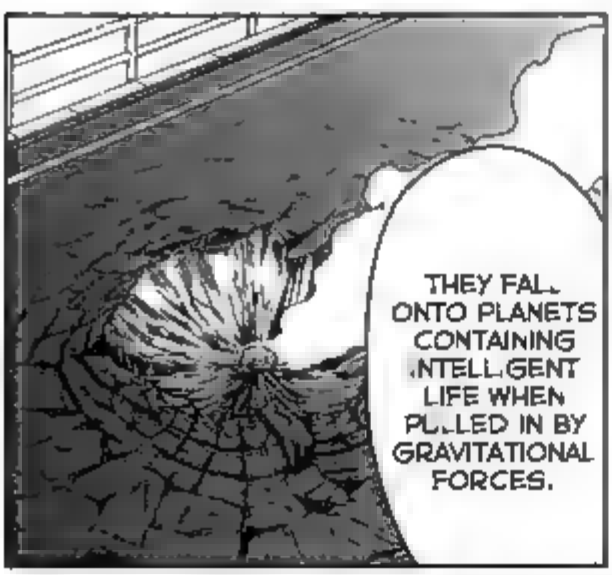
HUH?

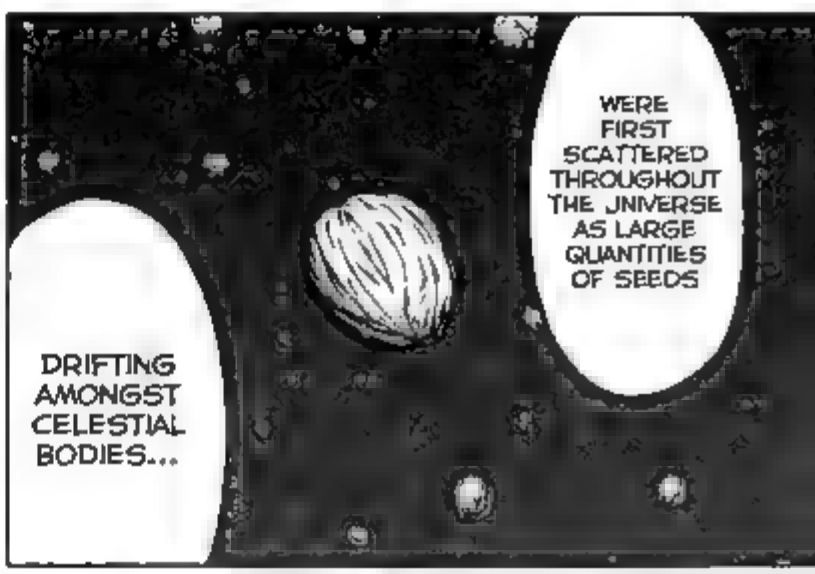
THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER!
...?
OR SHALL I CALL IT...

A PLANT-BASED SUPER-WEAPON MADE BY ALIENS...
IN ORDER TO DESTROY INTELLIGENT CIVILIZA-TIONS.
IT'S ONLY A HYPO-THESIS.
EVEN IF A DECENT RESEARCHER HAD COME UP WITH IT, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
THAT'S QUITE AN OUT-LAND SH STORY!
WHEN MANY PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE TREE, THEY COME UP WITH ALL KINDS OF IDEAS.
WE CAN'T DISMISS THOSE INSIGHTS.
BUT.. NOW IT'S SPREADING ALL OVER THE WEB.
tap
tap

THE SUPER WEAPON THEORY.
AMONG THEM, THERE IS ONE WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED.

THESE WEAPONS ...


THEY FALL ONTO PLANETS CONTAINING INTELLIGENT LIFE WHEN PULLED IN BY GRAVITATIONAL FORCES.


DRIFTING AMONGST CELESTIAL BODIES...
WERE FIRST SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE AS LARGE QUANTITIES OF SEEDS

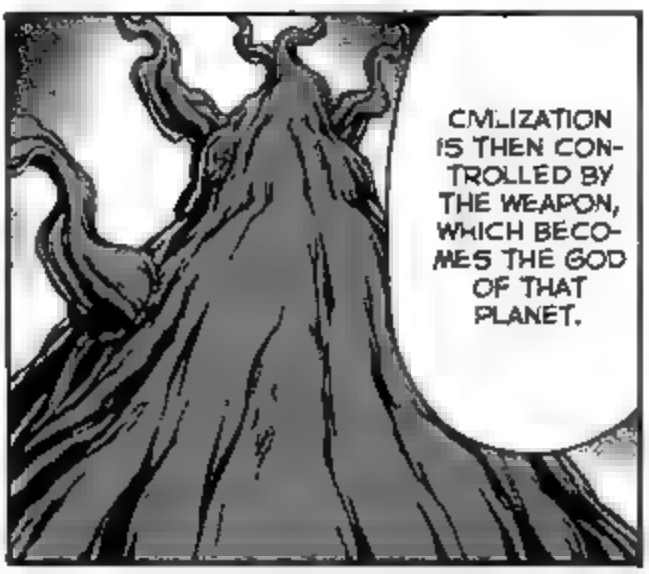
THEY THEN ABSORB AND DESTROY THE CIVILIZATIONS ON THOSE PLANETS, USING THEM AS ENERGY SOURCES TO GROW.

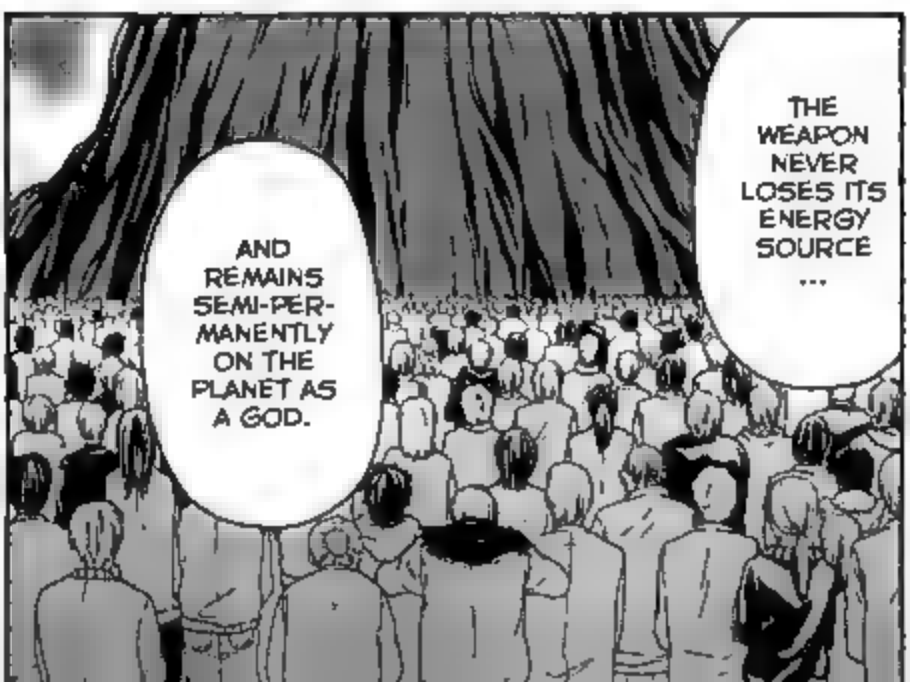
LIFE ITSELF IS CONVERTED INTO AN ENERGY SOURCE FOR GROWTH.
WHEN THERE IS INTELLIGENT LIFE BUT CIVILIZATION IS AT TOO LOW A LEVEL ...

RIGHT.

IS TO TRANSFORM LIVING THINGS INTO METAL AND THEN ABSORB THEM?
THE ABILITY OF THE TREE...

WHEN SOCIETY ADVANCES TO A CERTAIN LEVEL, IT IS ONCE AGAIN ABSORBED AND DESTROYED.


CIVILIZATION IS THEN CONTROLLED BY THE WEAPON, WHICH BECOMES THE GOD OF THAT PLANET.

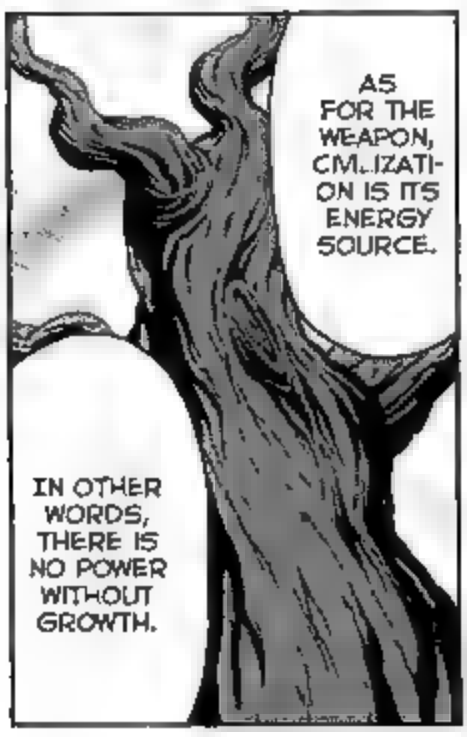

AND REMAINS SEMI-PERMANENTLY ON THE PLANET AS A GOD.
THE WEAPON NEVER LOSES ITS ENERGY SOURCE ...

A SEED OF THAT WEAPON FELL TO EARTH.

SOMETIME IN THE DISTANT PAST...

AND CIVILISATION WAS ABSORBED AND DESTROYED BY THE GROWING SEED.

THE EARTH WAS SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED AT THAT TIME...

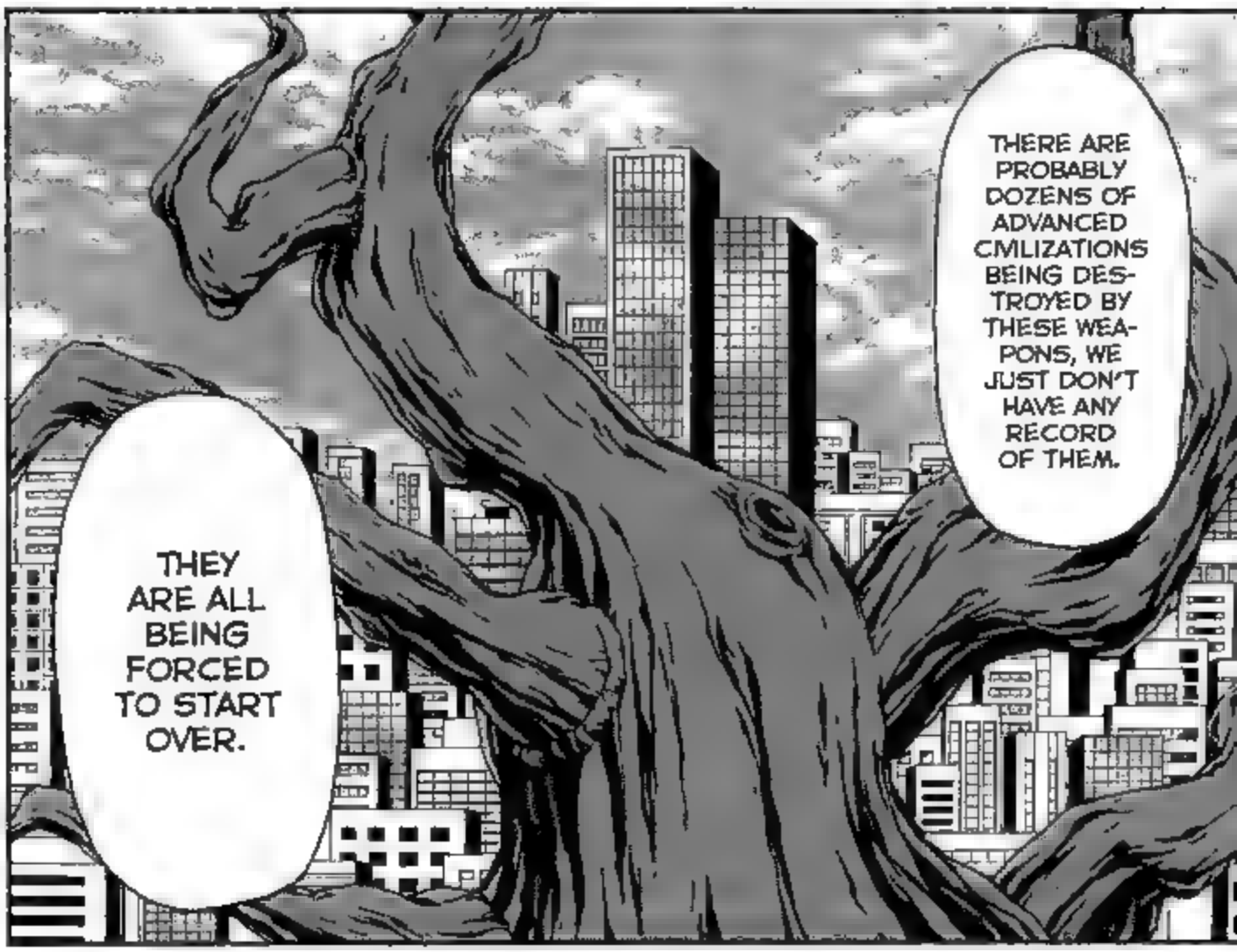

AS FOR THE WEAPON, CIVILIZATION IS ITS ENERGY SOURCE.
IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS NO POWER WITHOUT GROWTH.

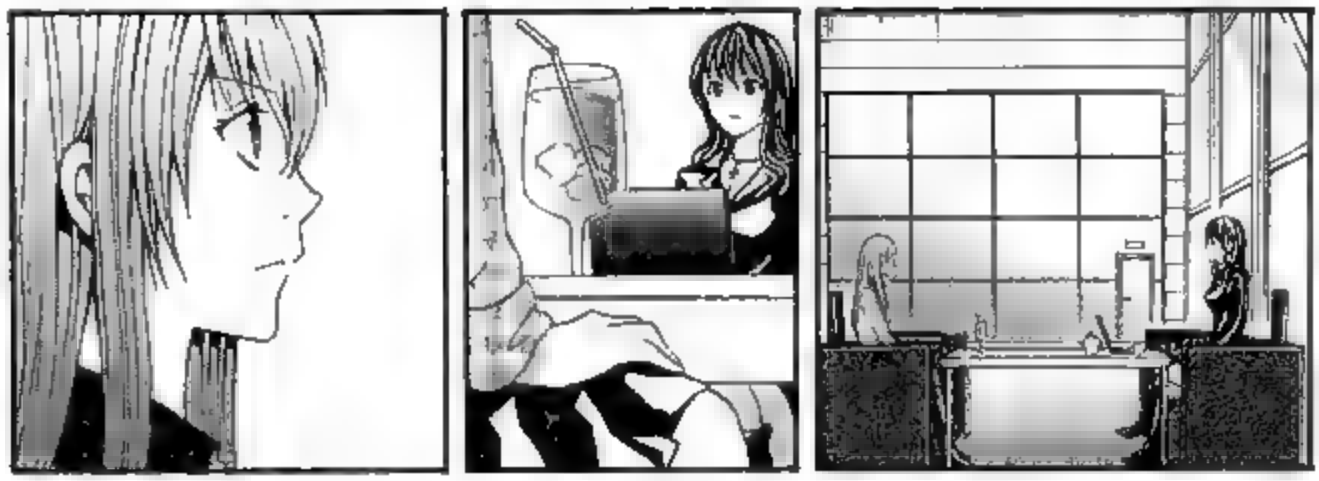
ALTHOUGH THE WORLD WAS ALL BUT ANNIHILATED, SOME LIFE STILL REMAINED.
THOSE WHO SURVIVED WERE THEN LEFT WITH A STABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO REBUILD SOCIETY.

HOWEVER ...

THE REMAINING LIFE FORMS ARE BESTOWED BLESSINGS.
TO ENCOURAGE NEW DEVELOPMENT
THAT'S WHY, BY DESTROYING CIVILIZATION AND REDUCING THE POPULATION...
WHILE EVIL SPIRITS APPEARED FROM THE HEAVENS...
BENEVOLENT GODS PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR CIVILIZATION, SO THESE LEGENDS CARRY A DUAL NATURE.
THIS TIME, THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE WEAPON AND THE MEMORY OF THE BLESSING ...
REMAINED IN THIS WORLD AS MYTHS OF SNAKE AND DRAGON GODS.
THE SYMBOL OF THE SNAKE ALSO EXISTS IN ALCHEMY.
WE REMEMBER THE WEAPON AS A PHENOMENON WHICH CAUSED THE TRANSFORMATION OF LIVING THINGS INTO METAL.

I WONDER WHAT STAGE IT IS IN.
THAT BEING SAID, OUR CIVILIZATION ON EARTH ...


THEY ARE ALL BEING FORCED TO START OVER.
THERE ARE PROBABLY DOZENS OF ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS BEING DESTROYED BY THESE WEAPONS, WE JUST DON'T HAVE ANY RECORD OF THEM.



WHY DID ALIENS HAVE TO CREATE SUCH A WEAPON?
I DON'T GET IT...
WHAT IS THE POINT OF IT?
THESE WEAPONS DESTROY SOCIETY, JUST TO CONTROL ITS GROWTH.
I WOULDN'T CALL IT AN AGGRESSIVE WEAPON.
TO SUPPRESS THE PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATIONS ON OTHER PLANETS.
CIVILIZATIONS ON OTHER PLANETS IN THE UNIVERSE CAN ADVANCE AS MUCH AS THE ORIGINATING PLANET...
SO THEY HAD TO BE ABLE TO PREVENT THE THREAT OF INVASION.
THE INTELLIGENT LIFE WHICH CREATED THESE WEAPONS ...
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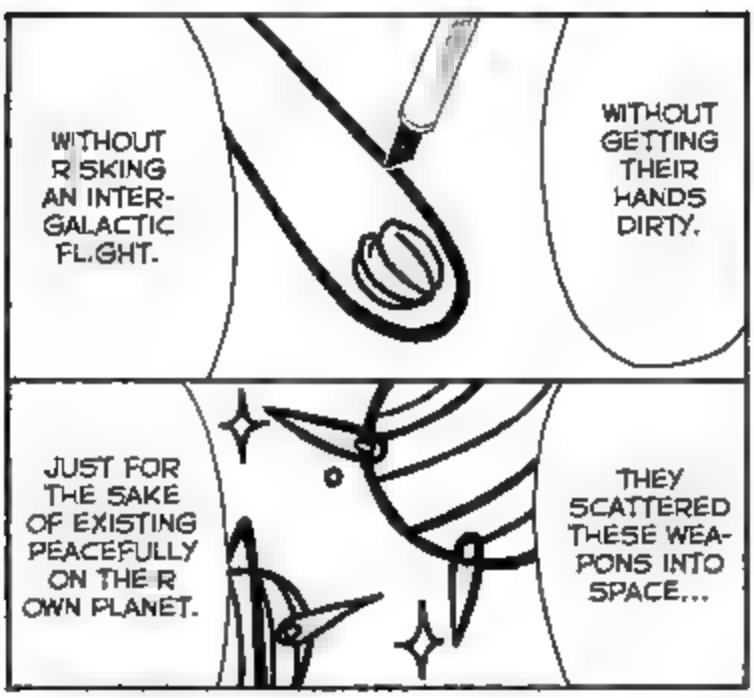
Seed
THOSE INTELLIGENT BEINGS BUILT WEAPONS TO IMPEDE THE ADVANCEMENT OF OTHER CIVILIZATIONS.
IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING...
FEARED OTHER INTELLIGENT LIFE BEING BORN IN THIS UNIVERSE.
THE MORE CIVILIZATIONS ARE BORN ON OTHER PLANETS, THE LIKELIER THEY ARE TO SEND AN INVASIVE FORCE.
FOR THE SAKE OF LIVING IN PEACE...
THEY MADE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS OF INVASION SO THAT LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO INVADE THEM.

INVASIVE WEAPONS...
THAT PREVENT INVASION!


WITHOUT GETTING THEIR HANDS DIRTY.
WITHOUT R SKING AN INTER-GALACTIC FL.GHT.
THEY SCATTERED THESE WEA-PONS INTO SPACE...
JUST FOR THE SAKE OF EXISTING PEACEFULLY ON THE R OWN PLANET.

THEY ARE AUTOMATIC DEVICES...
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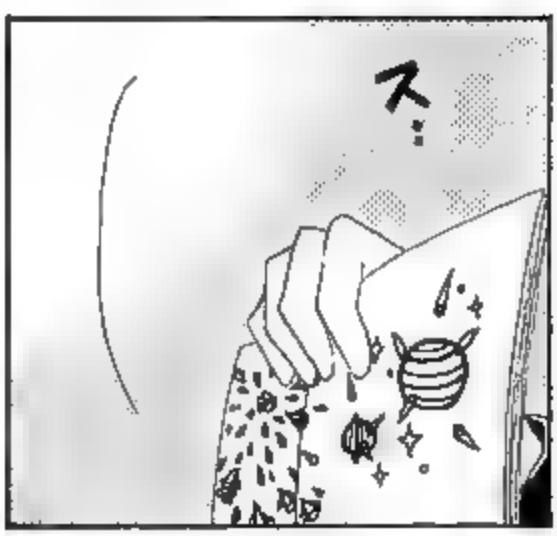
PROGRA-MMED TO DESTROY A CIVILIZATION ONCE IT BECOMES SUFFIC ENTLY ADVANCED.

ON EARTH, THESE SUPER WEAPONS ARE KNOWN AS THE ...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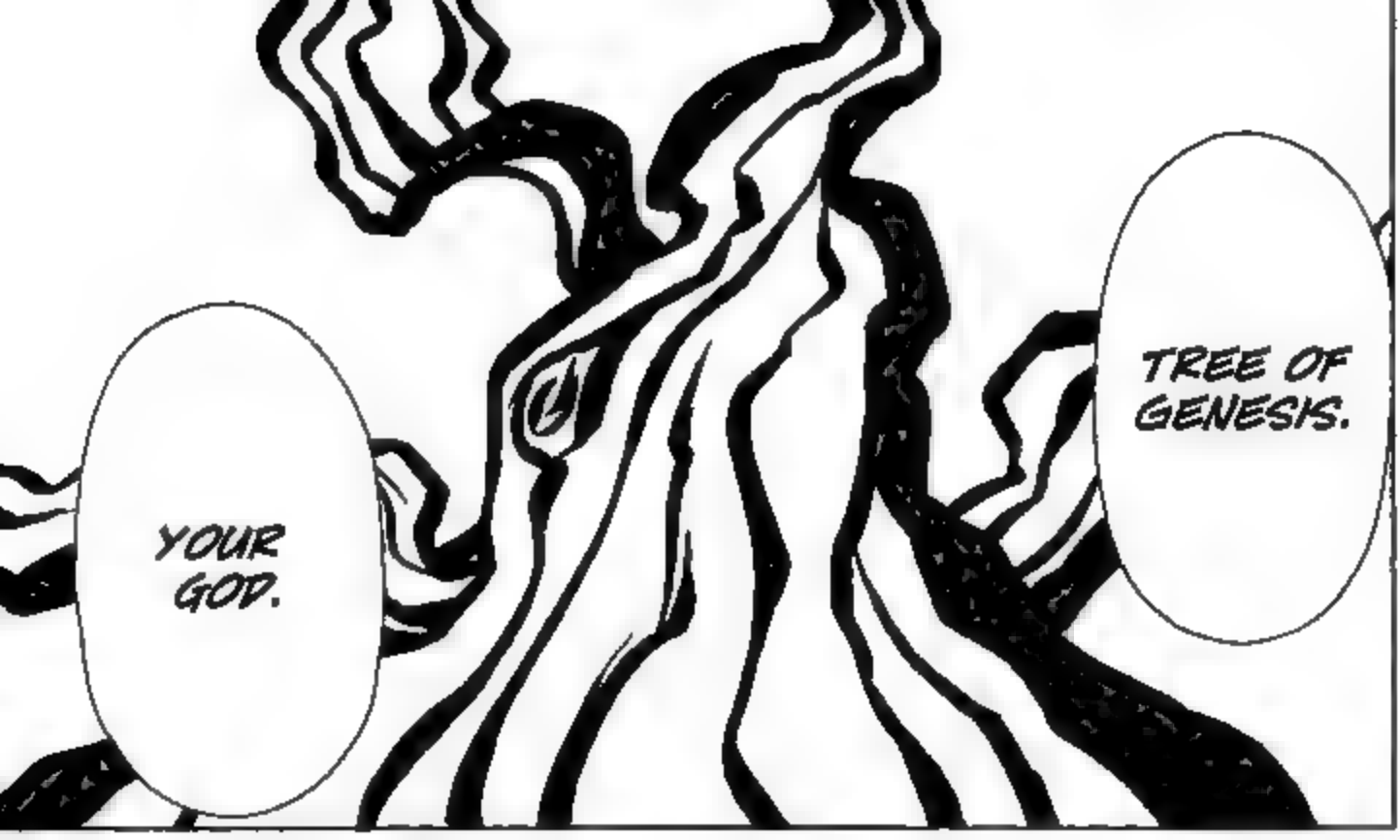

TREE OF GENESIS.
YOUR GOD.

THE KUSARIBE CLAN IS ALSO PART OF THE WEAPONS SYSTEM.

BY MEASURING HOW BELLIGERENT A CIVILIZATION IS, WHETHER THEY HAVE AN INVASIVE FORCE, AND FROM THEIR LEVEL OF WEAPONRY.
THOSE FACTORS DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THAT PLANET SHOULD BE DESTROYED. MAKES SENSE, RIGHT?

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, WHEN HIGHLY LETHAL WEAPONS ARE OFFERED, YOU ARE ABLE TO USE POWERFUL MAGIC.

THE CLAN DEDICATES OFFERINGS AS SAMPLES OF THE PRODUCTS OF SOCIETY.
THAT IS HOW A CIVILISATION'S LEVEL IS DETERMINED.

DO YOU THINK THE PRINCESS OF THE TREE OF GENESIS ...
COULD BE CONVINCED SO EASILY?

THIS SOUNDS ABSURD.
?...
Hehe_

ALTHOUGH ...

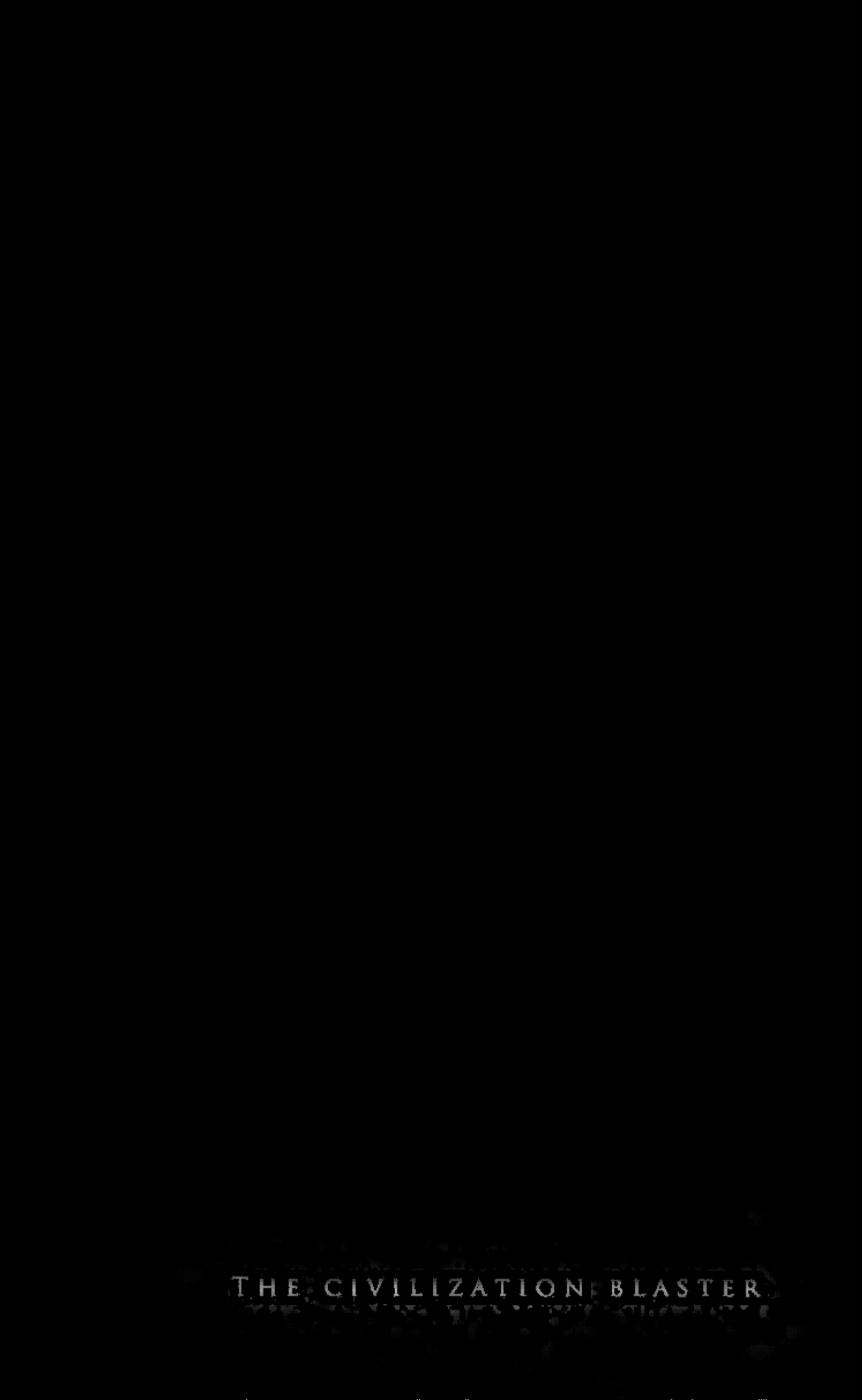
THE RESEARCH TEAM .S STARTING TO INVESTIGATE, BUT FOR NOW IT'S JUST A HYPO-THES S.
IT'S JUST AS PLAUSIBLE AS IDLE GOSSIP.

NO WAY!

BUT... ISN'T WHAT WE'RE USING MAGIC?
A SUPER-NATURAL FORCE TO CONTROL REASON?

IS THERE MUCH DIFFE-RENCE BE-TWEEN THE TREE OF GEN-ESIS BEING A GOD AND IT BEING ALIEN WEAPONRY?
NEITHER IS OUTSIDE THE REALM OF IMAGINATION!

T/N: Clarke s Third Law by Arthur C. Clarke.


THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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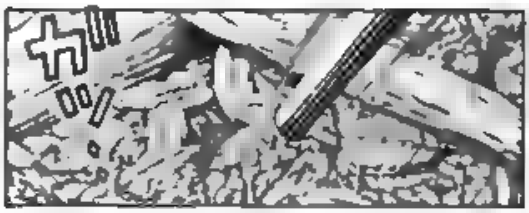
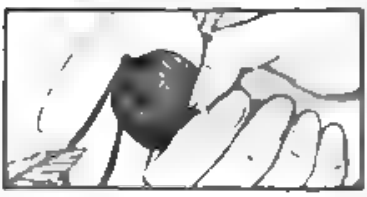
Chapter 31: Hamlet, Avenge!

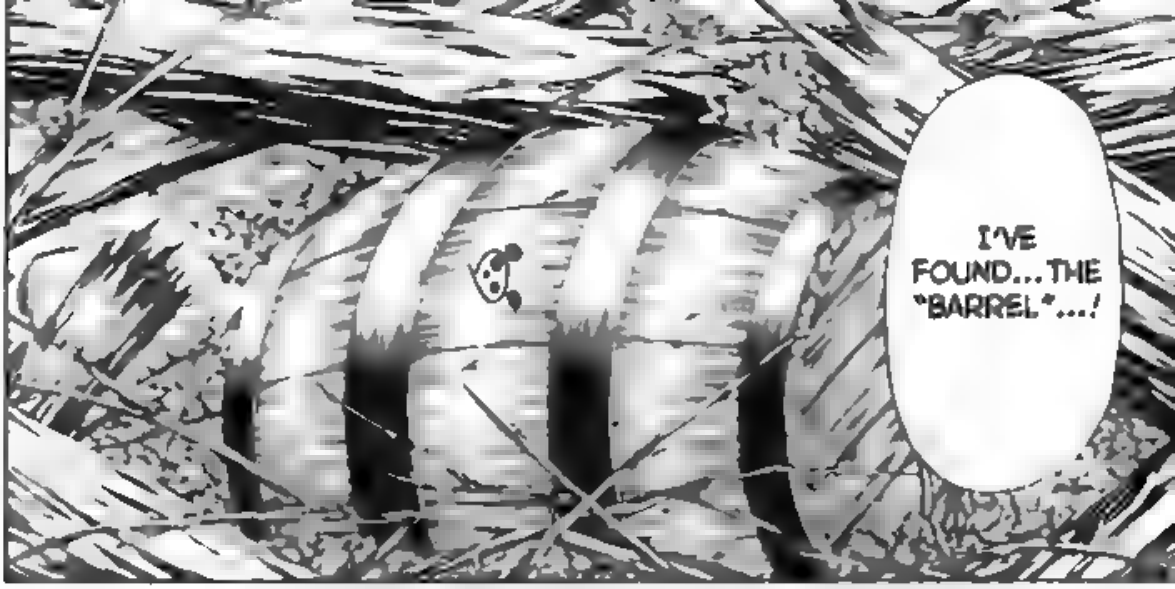


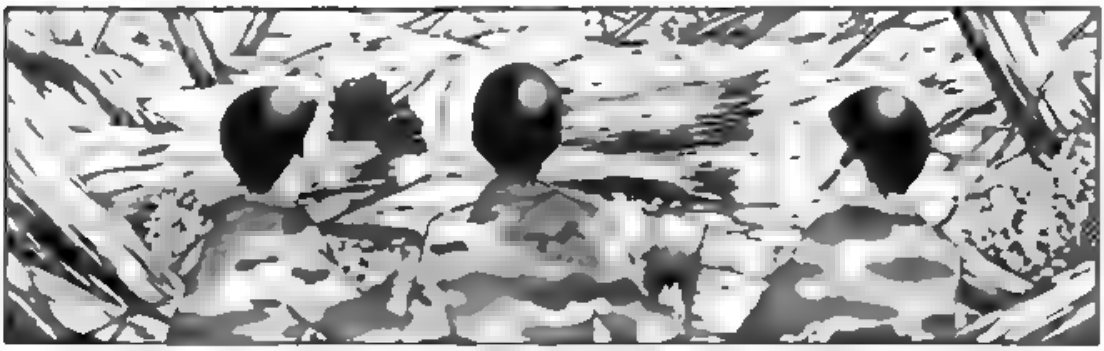


THIS IS...

.....?

TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE:
AN ITEM RESEMBLING A "DOLL" HAS BEEN DISCOVERED!
A WOODEN DOLL...
RIGHT?
!?


I'VE FOUND... THE "BARREL"...!



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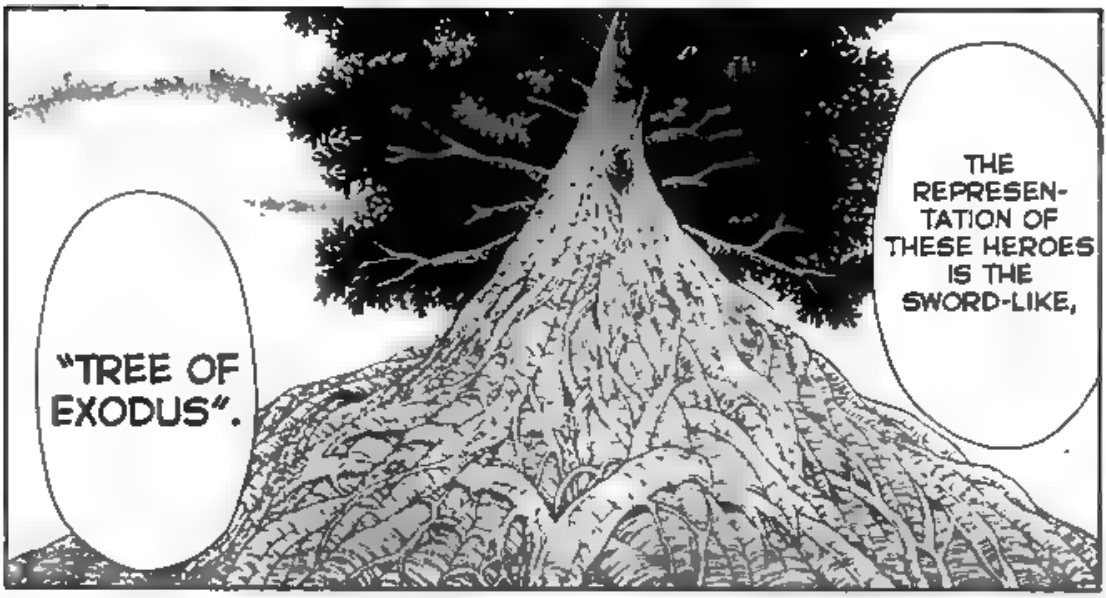
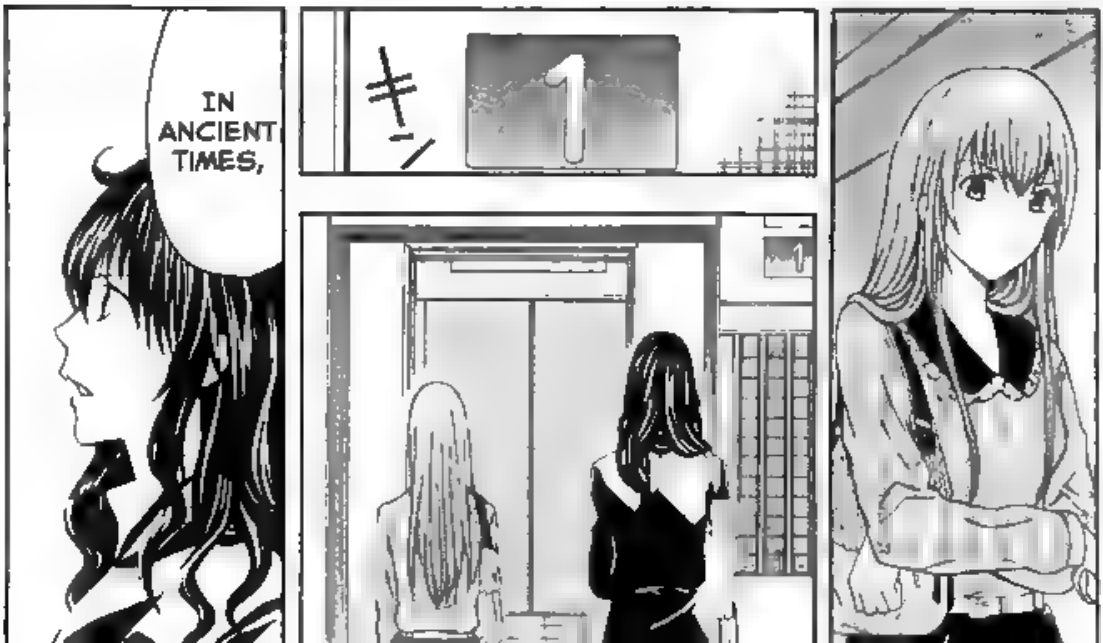
...

IF IT'S AN EXTRATERRES TRIAL SUPER-WEAPON MADE TO RESTRAIN PROGRESS,
...THE "TREE OF GENESIS" GOVERNS OVER THE CIVILIZATION OF OTHER PLANETS.

IN FOLKLORE ABOUT SERPENTS AND DRAGONS.
MANY HEROES THAT SLAY SERPENTS AND DRAGONS APPEAR,
THEN HOW CAN THE "TREE OF EXODUS" BE EXPLAINED?

SUSANOO NO MIKOTO SLAYED YAMATA NO OROCHI,
USING WEAPONS, THEY SLAYED THE MONSTERS.
MARDUK SLAYED TIAMAT,
THOR SLAYED JORMUN-GANDR,


"TREE OF EXODUS".
THE REPRESEN-TATION OF THESE HEROES IS THE SWORD-LIKE,


IN ANCIENT TIMES,
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AND THEN OUR WORLD WAS BORN?
DIFFERENT FOLK-LORES HAVE MANY SHARED TRAITS.
WHEN THE "TREE OF GENESIS" FOUGHT THE "TREE OF EXODUS"; THE "TREE OF GENESIS" SEALED THE "TREE OF EXODUS",
BUT THE "TREE OF GENESIS" WAS SEVERELY INJURED DURING THE BATTLE AND ENTERED A DEEP SLUMBER.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, ISN'T IT STRANGE?
OUR WORLD IS OBVIOUSLY,
A WORLD WHERE THE "TREE OF GENESIS" HAS THE UPPER HAND.
THEN WHY?
IN THIS WORLD, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH FOLKLORE DEPICTING THE VICTORIES OF THE "TREE OF EXODUS" BEING REPRESENTED BY HEROES?
WHY IS THERE SUCH AN EMPHASIS ON THE SERPENTS AND DRAGONS BEING DEFEATED?
.....

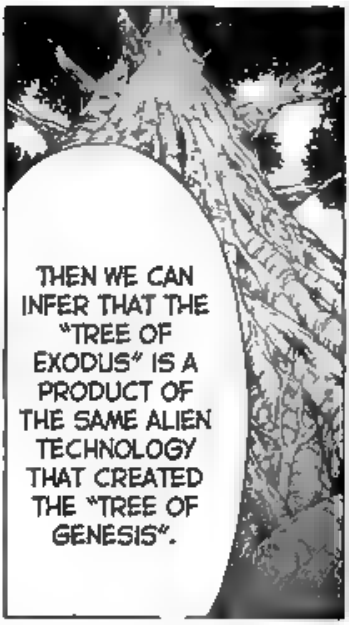
ISN'T FOLKLORE TELLING THE OPPOSITE STORY?
AND THE SERPENTS AND DRAGONS AS PROTECTOR GODS SHOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN INSTEAD.
IN A WORLD WHERE THE "TREE OF GENESIS" HAS THE UPPER HAND, FOLKLORE DEPICTING THE WEAPON-WIELDING HEROES AS BARBARIC INVADERS,
BUT IN THIS WORLD,
THERE IS ALSO A LOT OF FOLKLORE ABOUT "TREE GODS".
STATION
AND HAVE CHANGED THE LEGENDS ABOUT SERPENTS AND DRAGONS?
COULDN'T THE "TREE OF GENESIS" HAVE MANIPULATED INTERPRETATIONS TO PRESENT ITSELF IN THAT IMAGE?

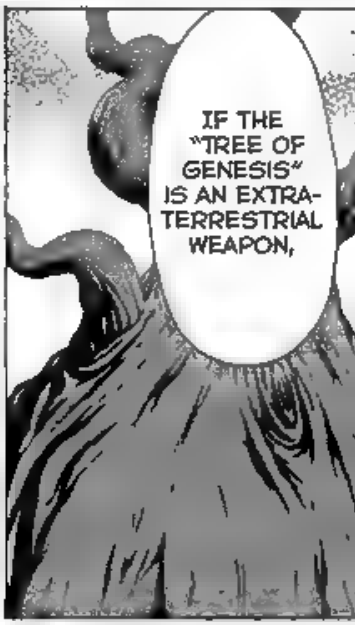
BUT...
IF IT'S LINKED WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT IT SHOULD BE EXTERMI-NATED,
WHY NOT ELIMINATE IT RIGHT FROM THE START?
IF IT'S ACCEPTED THAT OUR SITUATION IS CONSISTENT WITH FOLKLORE ABOUT SERPENTS AND DRAGONS,
DOESN'T THE "TREE OF GENE-SIS" SEEM TO BE AN EVIL GOD?
YEAH.
THAT SHOULD BE THE CASE...
THIS SITUATION IS EXACTLY LIKE THE FOLKLORE ABOUT SERPENTS AND DRAGONS;
ISN'T IT IMPLYING THAT THE "TREE OF GENESIS" SHOULD BE DEFEATED?
Hmmm.
Even the princess thinks so..

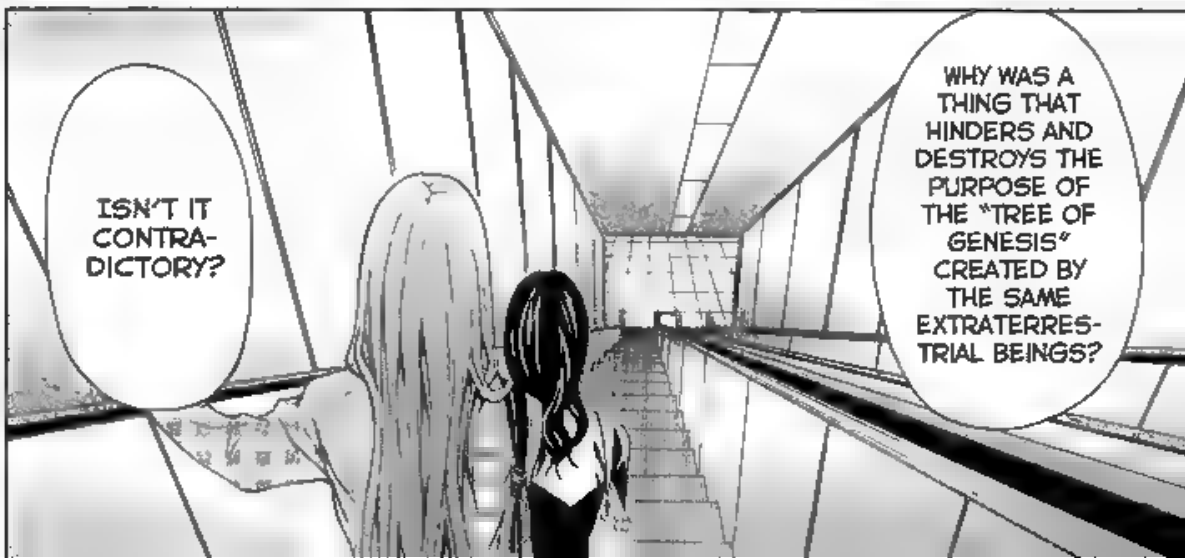
ALSO THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS,
WITH THE SUPER-WEAPON THEORY.
ALTHOUGH THE POWER OF THE "TREE OF EXODUS" COUNTERS THE "TREE OF GENESIS",
ITS EXISTENCE IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE "TREE OF GENESIS".

I SEE.
THE INVESTIGATION TEAM ALSO CAME UP WITH THE SAME THEORY.

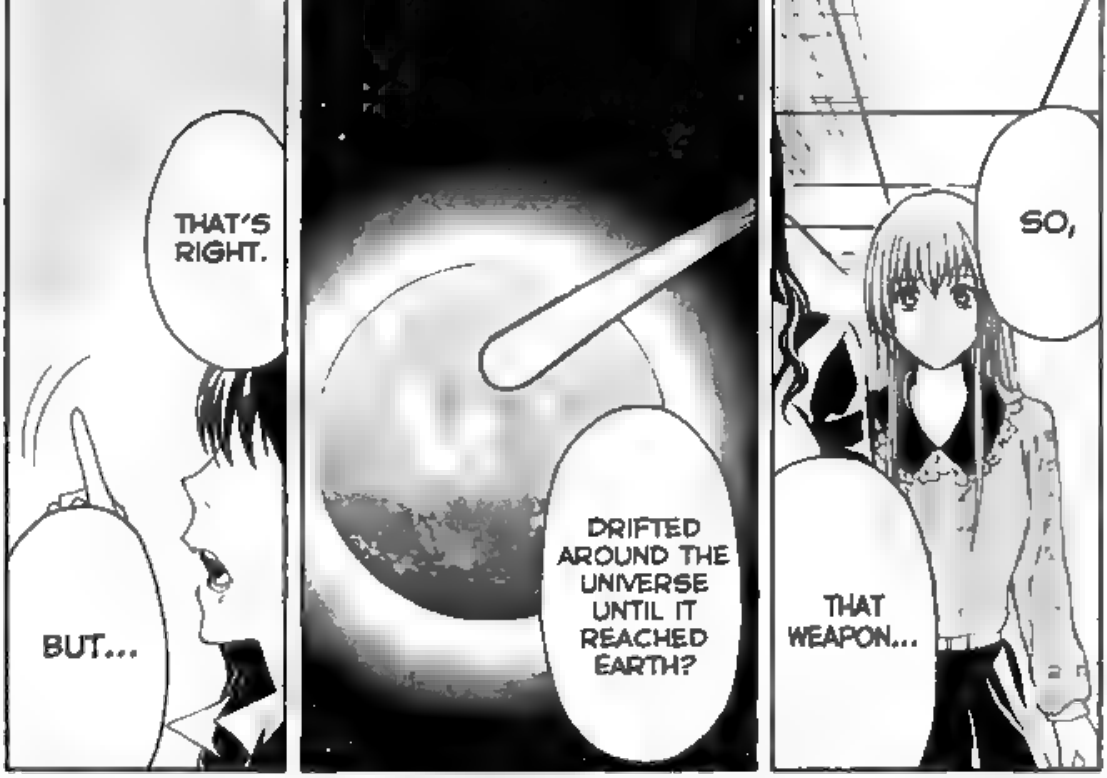
THEN,

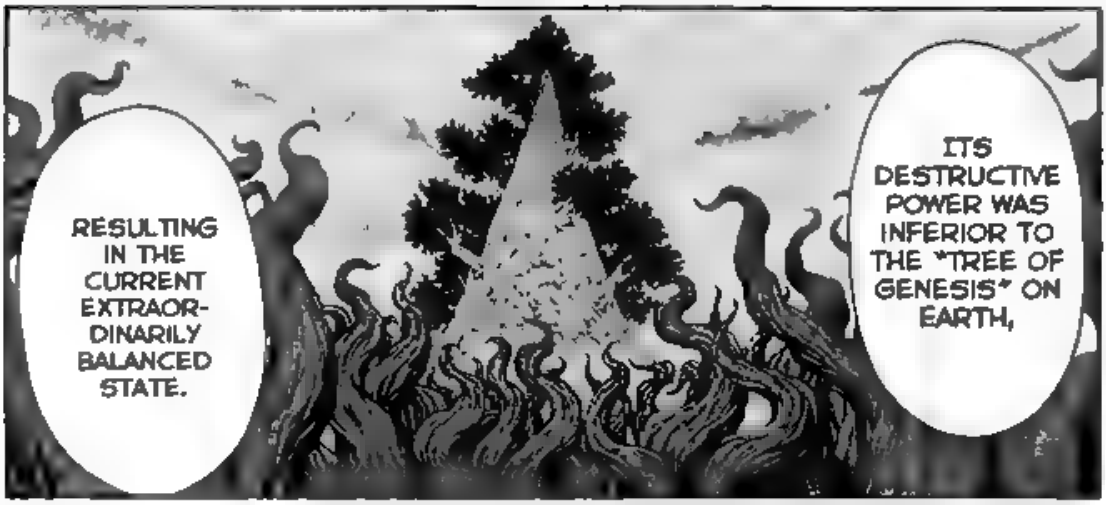

THEN WE CAN INFER THAT THE "TREE OF EXODUS" IS A PRODUCT OF THE SAME ALIEN TECHNOLOGY THAT CREATED THE "TREE OF GENESIS".


IF THE "TREE OF GENESIS" IS AN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL WEAPON,


ISN'T IT CONTRA-DICTORY?
WHY WAS A THING THAT HINDERS AND DESTROYS THE PURPOSE OF THE "TREE OF GENESIS" CREATED BY THE SAME EXTRATERRES-TRIAL BEINGS?

THE EXTRATER-RESTRIAL BE.NGS CREATED THE "TREE OF GENESIS" AS A DEVICE TO DESTROY CIVILIZATIONS,
AND SCATTERED MANY OF THEM ACROSS THE UNIVERSE...
...IF THAT'S THE CASE,
IT CAN BE EXPLAINED LIKE THIS:
AND THOUGHT OF "DEALING WITH THE WEAPON AS THE CREATOR'S RESPONSI-BILITY."
AFTER TENS OR EVEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS,
THEY REGRETTED THAT "AS EXPECTED THERE IS A PROBLEM; THE WEAPON GOES AGAINST THE UNIVERSE'S ETHICS."
ONCE AGAIN, MANY OF THEM WERE SCATTERED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.
A WEAPON WE CALL THE "TREE OF EXODUS."
THAT'S WHEN A NEW WEAPON WAS CREATED TO E_IMINATE THE CIVILIZATION-DESTROYING DEVICE;


SO,
THAT WEAPON...
DRIFTED AROUND THE UNIVERSE UNTIL IT REACHED EARTH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT...


ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWER WAS INFERIOR TO THE "TREE OF GENESIS" ON EARTH,
RESULTING IN THE CURRENT EXTRAORDINARILY BALANCED STATE.

ANYWAY,
ISN'T THAT PUSHING IT TOO FAR?

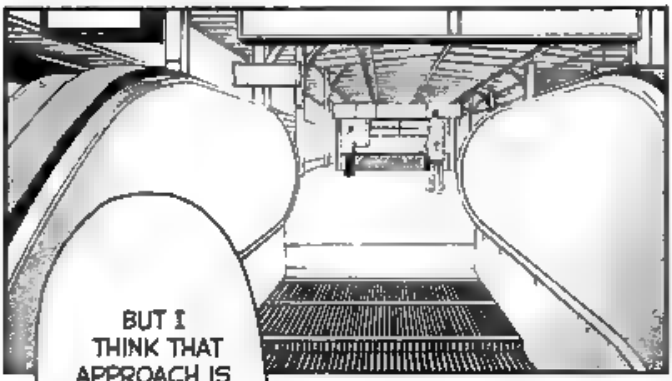
Ahaha!
EXACTLY. EVEN THOUGH THE TWO WERE PLACED IN THE UNIVERSE SEPARATELY, THEY HAPPENED TO REACH THE SAME PLANET
THAT HAS SUCH AN IMPOSSIBLY LOW CHANCE OF HAPPENING.

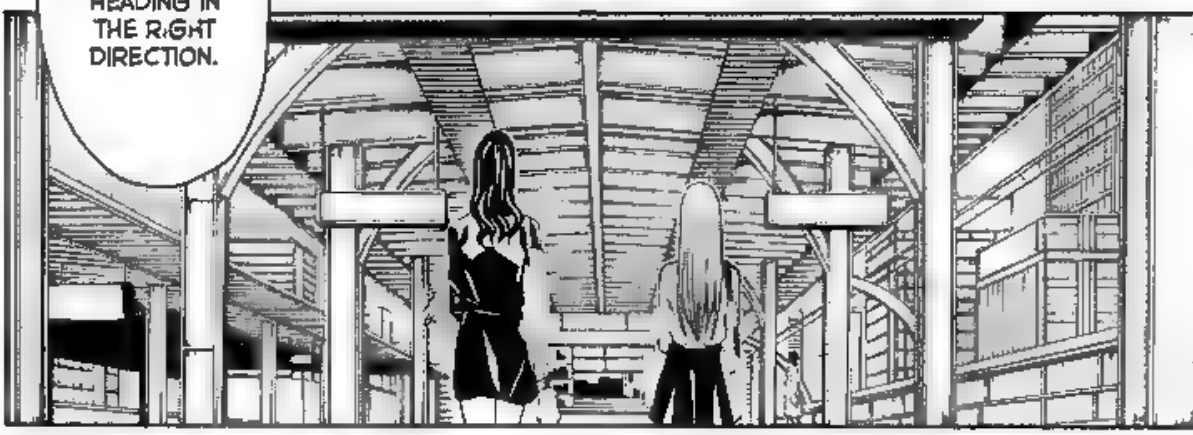
HOW ABOUT THAT?

DON'T YOU THINK IT SHOULD HAVE MORE SUITABLE FUNCTIONS IF IT WAS BUILT LATER?
IS AN EXCELLENT EXTER-MINATION MACHINE.
ALSO WE CAN'T SAY THAT THE "TREE OF EXODUS",
AS A SYSTEM,
IT'S STRANGE THAT ITS TRUE FORM COULD BE SEALED.
ITS POWER CAUSED THE FRUIT-LIKE OBJECT TO FALL APART.
MANY THINK IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT BOTH APPEARED ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME.
THE "TREE OF GENESIS" AND THE "TREE OF EXODUS" WERE DESIGNED TO BE A WHOLE UNIT FROM THE START.

IT IS NECESSARY TO REVIEW AND REVISE IT.

...IN OTHER WORDS,
THE SUPER-WEAPON THEORY IS INVALID?


BUT I THINK THAT APPROACH IS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.



THE APPROACH THAT SOMETHING SOMEWHERE WITH "EVIL INTENTIONS,"
HAS INVADED OUR WORLD.

WHICH IS,

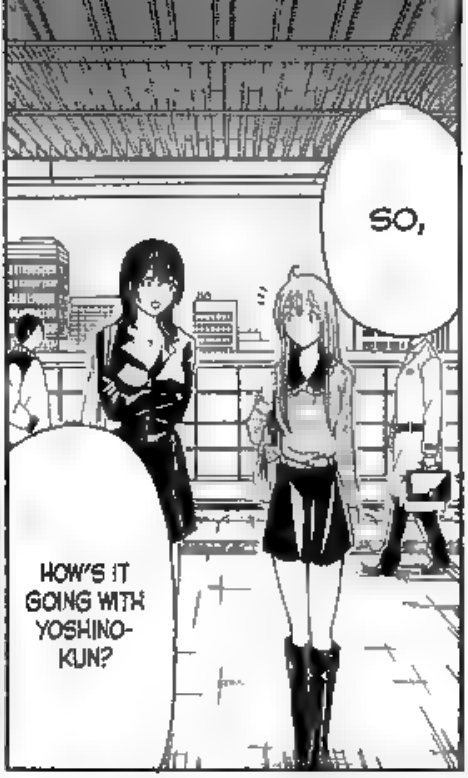
EVEN SO, CURRENTLY, THE "TREE OF GENESIS",
IS BARELY UNDER MY CONTROL.

...AS THE "PRINCESS OF THE TREE OF GENESIS", I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT,
BUT I'M OF THE SAME OPINION.

...For the time being, the princess is viewing the situation calmly.

IF IT HAS EVIL INTENTIONS, WHY IS IT POSSIBLE FOR IT TO BE CONTROLLED BY AN EARTH INHABITANT?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT EITHER.

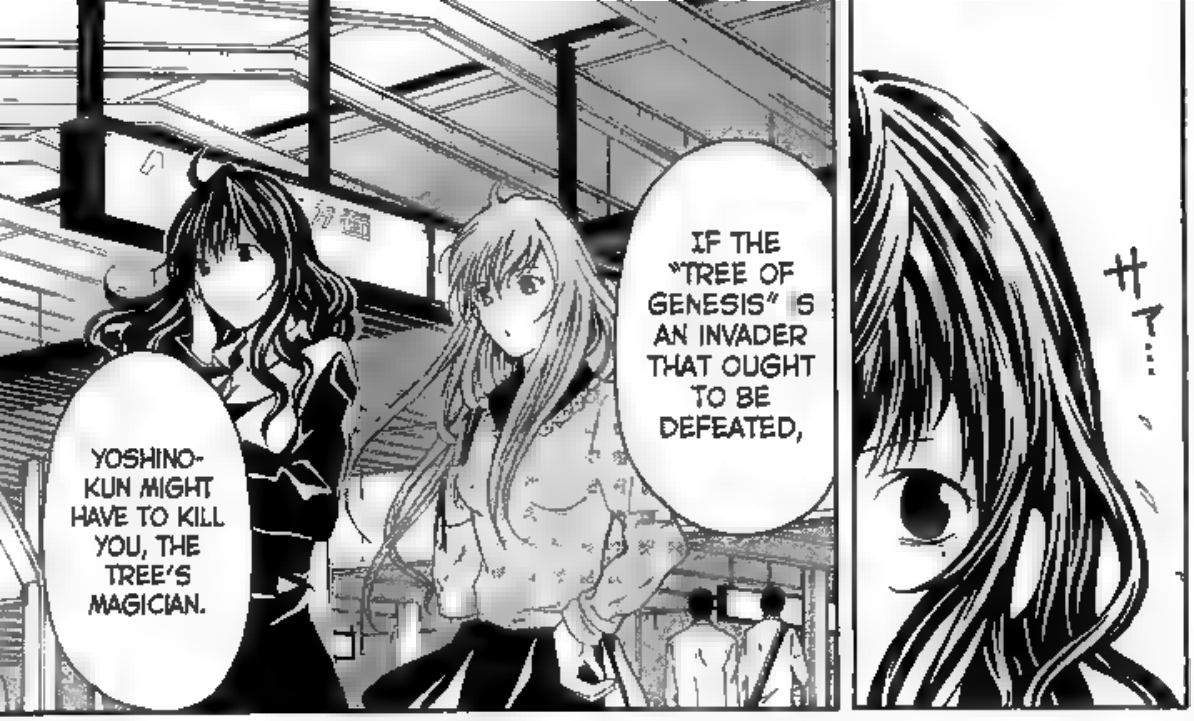
If possible, I hope she will always remain like this...



「Fancies」

Feeling strongly and longingly for someone of the opposite sex.

THE "PRINCESS OF THE TREE OF GENESIS" FANCIES A YOUNG MAN,
BECAUSE I'M INTERE-STED!
WHO MIGHT BE THE "MAGICIAN OF THE TREE OF EXODUS"!


IF THE "TREE OF GENESIS" IS AN INVADER THAT OUGHT TO BE DEFEATED,
YOSHINO-KUN MIGHT HAVE TO KILL YOU, THE TREE'S MAGICIAN.
ﾅﾆ…

"Gratified" …
isn't that a strong word too?
[Gratified]
Ultimately satisfied.
THEN I AM GRATIFIED.

Dying for the man you are in love with is a beautiful thing…
The princess might do something last minute because of love.
…I need to pay attention to this point.

...THE "BARREL" AND "DOLL" WERE RECOVERED FROM FUJI,
KUSARIBE SAMON IS ON HIS WAY TO VERIFY THEIR AUTHENTICITY.
ブブ...
HM?
A TEXT MESSAGE?

FOR NOW, THE ITEMS REMAIN UNDAMAGED, EVEN AFTER THE TEMPEST.
JUST AS YOU HAD HOPED.

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
PLEASE CONTACT ME IF THEY ARE CONFIRMED TO BE AUTHENTIC.

THERE AREN'T ANY PROBLEMS WITH SAMON VERIFYING THEM.

NOW WHAT?
DO YOU WANT TO VERIFY THEM?

YOU'RE RIGHT...
IT'S BASICALLY POINTLESS TO ACT SEPARATELY AT THIS POINT...
ALTHOUGH...
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR BOTH SIDES TO STOP ACTING SEPARATELY AND JOIN FORCES.
IT'S BETTER, SINCE WE SAVE THE TROUBLE OF HAVING THIS KIND OF AFFAIR.
But,
Yoshino aboard.
Just complicated for Yoshino and Manato to meet

DVD
HAMLET
HAMLET
...HM?
THE "ANSWER"?
...HAVE YOU FOUND,

THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HAVEN'T YOU FOUND THE ANSWER A WHILE AGO?

YOU'RE A DECISIVE PERSON.
AREN'T YOU ALREADY CERTAIN YOUR SISTER IS TAKAGAWA YOSHINO'S GIRLFRIEND?

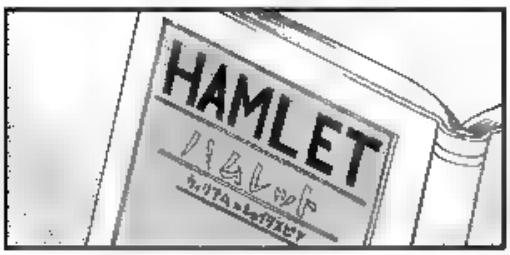
...IN ORDER FOR YOU TO DO SO,
SAMON-DONO HAS TO GO TO A PLACE THAT'S DIFFICULT TO MOVE IN.

HOW SHOULD I EXPRESS IT IF I HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER?

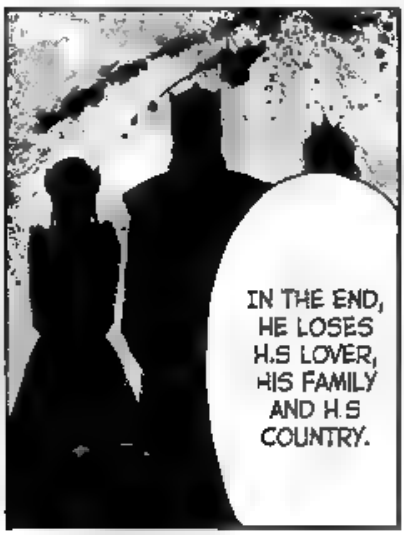
THE PRINCESS HAS LOST ANY REASON TO ACT APART FROM US.

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES,
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN ANY ACTION SO FAR?

HAMLET


HAMLET

IF YOU SAY YOU WANT TO MEET TAKIGAWA YOSHINO DIRECTLY,
I THINK IT CAN BE ARRANGED.


IN THE END, HE LOSES H.S LOVER, HIS FAMILY AND H.S COUNTRY.

THE PRO-TAGONIST, HAMLET, GIVES EXCUSES AT EVERY OPPORTU-NITY;
HE FEARS VENGEANCE AND IS HESITANT OVER IT.

...ABOUT "HAMLET",

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL,
I WATCHED THE STAGE PERFORMANCE WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.
WHAT A SURPRISE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE STORY?

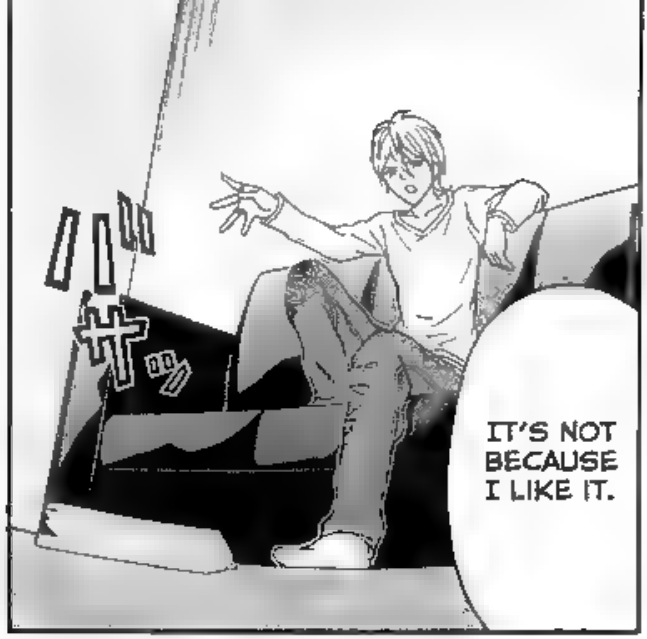
WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
YOU WERE ONCE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?!

?..

HE TAKES THE WORDS OF AN UNSEEN DEPARTED SOUL SERIOUSLY.
HAMLET'S MISTAKE IS THAT,

...YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN,
THE VOICES OF THE DEAD AND SPIRITS?
THE MOMENT HE BELIEVED IN SOMETHING ILLOGICAL, HE WAS BOUND FOR DESTRUCTION.
HAMLET
THEY ARE DELUSIONS OF THE LIVING.
NOR CAN THEY HEAR THE HOPES OF THE LIVING.
THE DEAD CAN'T COME BACK TO LIFE.
THEY CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING.
WHEN YOU DIE, IT'S THE END.
HAMLET

THE THINGS YOU FORGOT TO SAY, THE THINGS YOU WERE UNABLE TO SAY...
PEOPLE HAVE THOSE KINDS OF DREAMS BECAUSE THEY WANT THE DEAD TO HEAR THOSE THINGS, EVEN IF THEY ARE GHOSTS.
EVERY-THING IS BUT AN ILLUSION.
OR MAYBE THEY'RE SEEING THEIR WISHES IN THE FORM OF GHOSTS.
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, THEN WHY...
ARE YOU READING "HAMLET"?


IT'S NOT BECAUSE I LIKE IT.

BECAUSE AIKA OFTEN QUOTED FROM "HAMLET".

What a nasty sister.

...ISN'T "HAMLET" ABOUT A BROTHER WHO LOST HIS YOUNGER SISTER, AND HER BOY-FRIEND WHO KILL EACH OTHER AT THE END?
AND SHE QUOTED FROM IT RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?

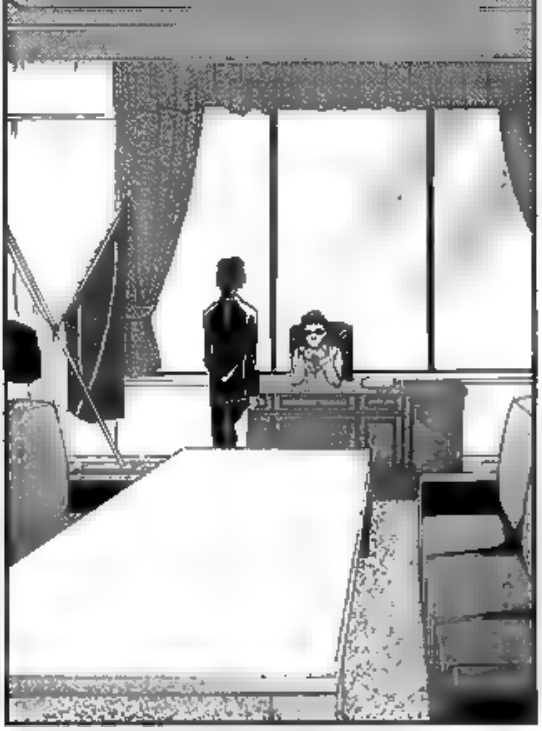
HAMLET

No
isn't it a peculiar reference?

SOMETIMES SHE ALSO QUOTED FROM THIS BOOK.
SHE DIDN'T JUST QUOTE FROM "HAMLET".
DO YOU KNOW THE STORY?
The Tempest
"THE TEMPEST"...?
IT'S A STORY WITH A BLISSFUL ENDING.
IN THE END, EVERYTHING IS FORGIVEN AND EVERY-ONE IS FREED.

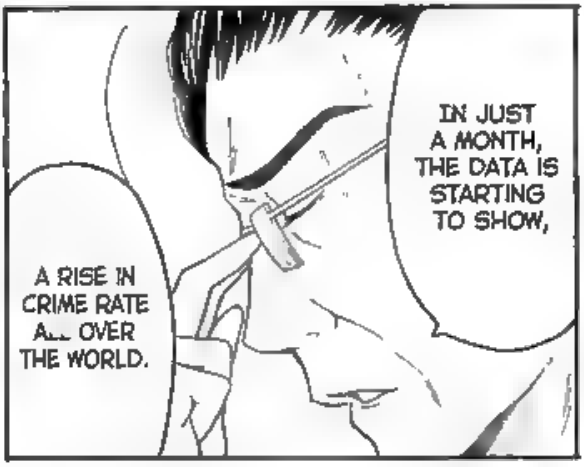
I WON'T BE FAR; JUST GOING FOR A WALK.
...I'M HEADING OUT FOR A WHILE.
THE PROBLEM LIES IN,
I'VE FOUND,
THE "ANSWER".
HAMLET
ハムレット
ウィリアム＝シェイクスピア
WHICH ONE I CHOOSE.
The Tempest
テンペスト

IT SEEMS LIKE THINGS ARE WORSENING.

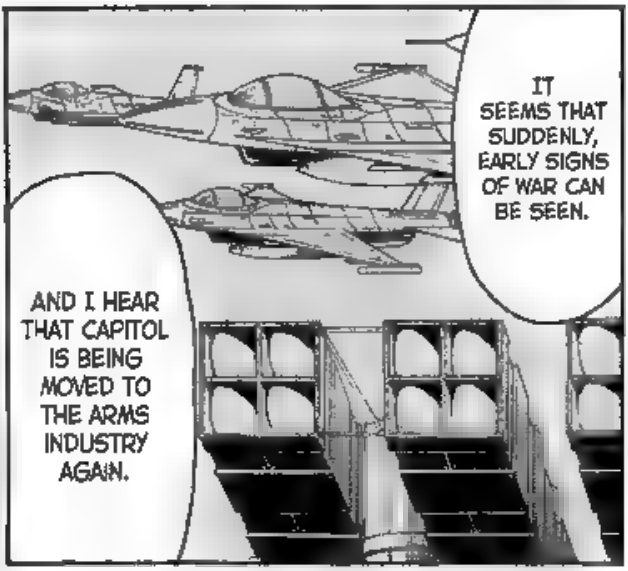


...WHAT ARE YOU REFERRING TO?

THAT'S RIGHT.


IN JUST A MONTH, THE DATA IS STARTING TO SHOW,
A RISE IN CRIME RATE ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THINGS THAT WERE SUPPRESSED BY THE "TREE OF GENESIS" UNTIL NOW,
ARE LIVENING UP DUE TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE "MAGICIAN OF EXODUS".


IT SEEMS THAT SUDDENLY, EARLY SIGNS OF WAR CAN BE SEEN.
AND I HEAR THAT CAPITOL IS BEING MOVED TO THE ARMS INDUSTRY AGAIN.

IN A SENSE, YOU CAN SAY THIS .S A NORMAL REACTION.
THAT'S RIGHT.

PEOPLE WHO FEAR THE "TREE OF GENES.S" DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE "MAGICIAN OF EXODUS",

GIVING RISE TO DESTRUC- TIVE ACTIONS LIKE CRIME AND WAR.

IF THE GODS ARE SLOPPY IN THEIR RUL NG, OF COURSE THE PEOPLE WILL RAMPAGE.

A WORLD WITHOUT CRIME OR WAR;
THEY'RE BOTH ABNORMAL.

SOMEWHAT.

ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW BAD THE SITUATION IS?

AND THEY WILL THINK: "IT WAS PEACEFUL AND BETTER BACK THEN."
PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN THINGS WERE WELL MANAGED UNDER THE RULE OF THE "TREE OF GENESIS".
IF SAFETY WORSENS AND WAR DRAWS ATTENTION,
THEIR FAITH IN THE "TREE OF GENESIS" WILL BE RENEWED.
MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER IN THE CITY
TREE OF EXODUS DEFEAT!
MAGICIAN OF EXODUS
THEY WILL BECOME HOSTILE TOWARDS THE "MAGICIAN OF EXODUS" FOR RUINING THE PEACE.
THE PRESENCE OF AN ICON LIKE "MAHIME" SERVES TO STRENGTHEN THE SENSE OF AFFINITY PEOPLE FEEL TOWARDS IT.
THE "TREE OF GENESIS" HAS ONLY SHOWN ITSELF AS A HUGE TREE THIS ENTIRE TIME;
THE SUPPORT FOR THE "TREE OF GENESIS" HAS INCREASED.
EVER SINCE "MAHIME" APPEARED,

No.
wouldn't say she's lovely...
...
AS YOU CAN SEE, "MAIHIME" IS LOVELY AFTER ALL.
LOVELY.
LOVELY?
f the princess could be controlled,
We wouldn't be in this mess...
But,
Support for the "Tree of Genesis" has 'ncreased from that.
RATHER, WE CAN SAY THAT HER EMER-GENCE WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO VENT THEIR ANGER.
EVEN IF "MAIHIME" DIDN'T APPEAR, AN AFTERSHOCK WOULD HAPPEN EVENTUALLY.

EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE ASSUME THE "TREE OF GENESIS" WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY OUR CIVILIZATION RIGHT DOWN TO THE CORE,
IF THE PUBLIC PRIORITIZES THE PRESENT PEACE OVER FUTURE DISASTERS...
SUCH SMOOTH WORDS MAKE SMOOTH WAYS.
OH,
...THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC OPINION.
THEN THE DECISION TO DESTROY THE "TREE OF GENESIS" WILL BE MADE.
WE CAN NO LONGER TURN A BLIND EYE,
TO YOUR ACTIONS.

DON'T MAKE A WRONG MOVE.

I UNDERSTAND.

Will I be demoted again...?

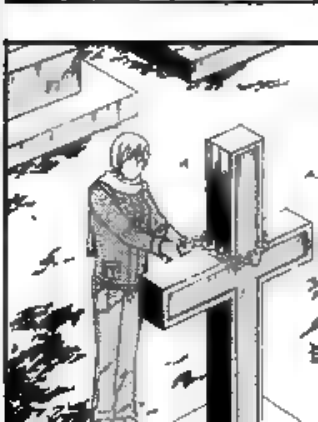
Before they are unable to overlook the rise in crime rate and worsening of public safety,
have to hold off action from the princess to prove the risks of the "Tree of Genesis".

PLEASE SEND A CAR OVER; IT'S URGENT.
IT'S ME.

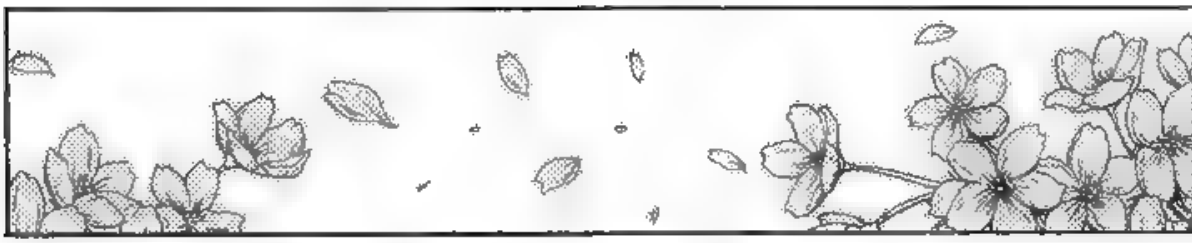
Intends to take down the "Tree of Genesis".
The other problem is that the princess,
The "superweapon" hypothesis is still unconvincing.
Then again,
Who is in the right?
Damn!
Is it the power of the "Tree of Genesis" that brings about the current situation? Or is it the plans of the "Tree of Exodus"?

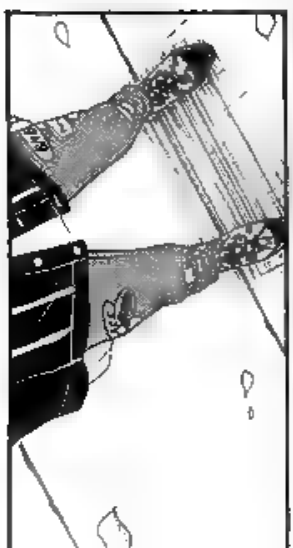
What are you praying for?

What do you hope to get from graves that can't respond?



What sense do you seek from visiting a grave?
After people die, no matter what you tell them, it's too late.
Yoshino-san thoughtlessly dragged me along to visit a grave.
And then, I suspect and investigate me.
He gave a series of excuses like:
I respect the grave, don't appear to be sad for my family's deaths.



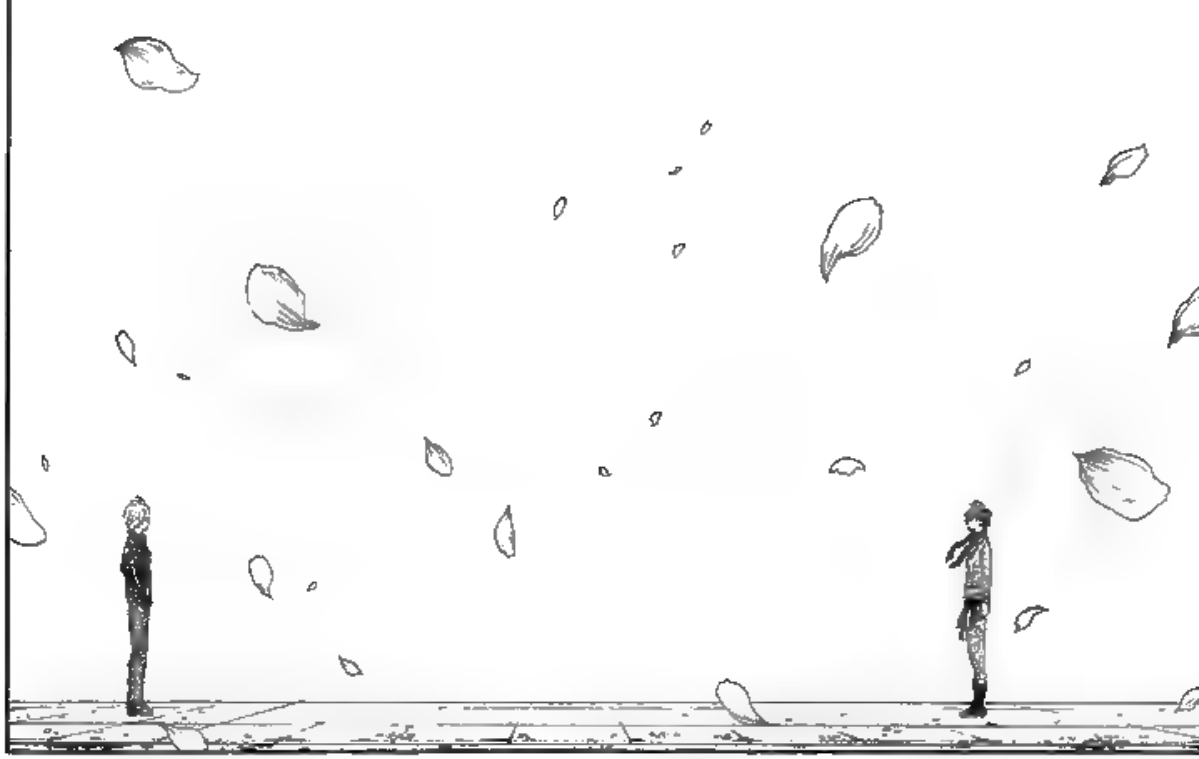


I thought I might have a change of mind if I came here...

As expected, I am out of place here.

Of course I am looking for?
I should go back.
I wouldn't be able to stand coming across a familiar face here.

ACTION
Fuck you!



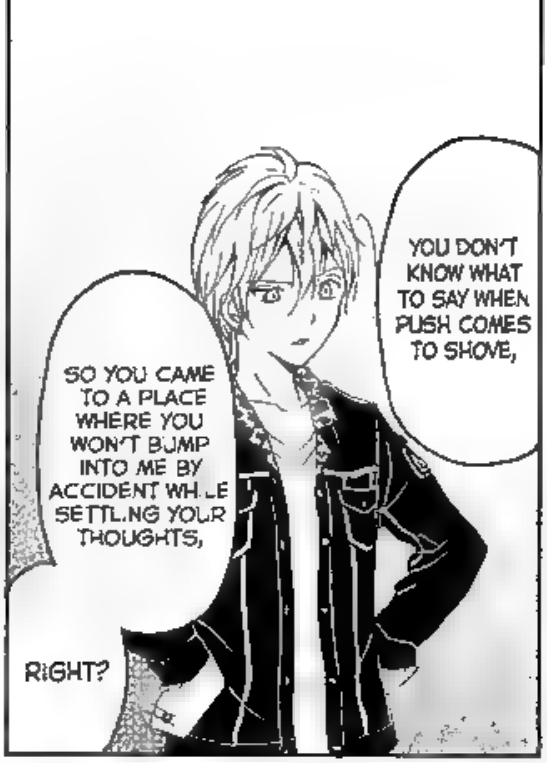
NO, NO!
I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING THAT!

HEY, YOSHINO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A CEMETERY?
FOR A PERSON WHO DOESN'T EVEN VISIT HIS FAMILY GRAVE PROPERLY,
I'M FLOWER VIEWING. NO OTHER REASON.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
...SO,
AS EXPECTED, THE SITUATION IS BAD, SO I BOUGHT A GIFT,
AND CAME TO THE NEIGHB-OURHOOD TO MEET TO YOU...
YET BECAUSE THEY'RE THINKING OF US,
THEY ARE STILL TAKING ACTION SEPA-RATELY.
HAKAZE AND THE REST SHOULD BE CARELESSLY COOPERATING BY NOW;

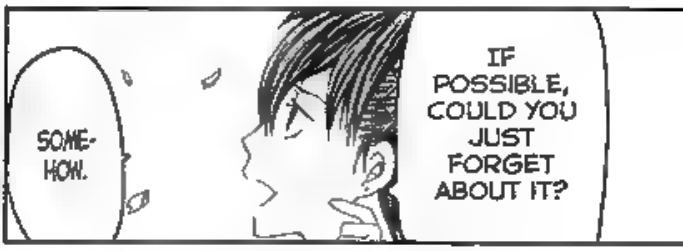
WELL,

I NEED TO BRACE MYSELF TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.


YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE,
SO YOU CAME TO A PLACE WHERE YOU WON'T BUMP INTO ME BY ACCIDENT WHILE SETTLING YOUR THOUGHTS,
RIGHT?

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE HAVING IT BOTH WAYS.

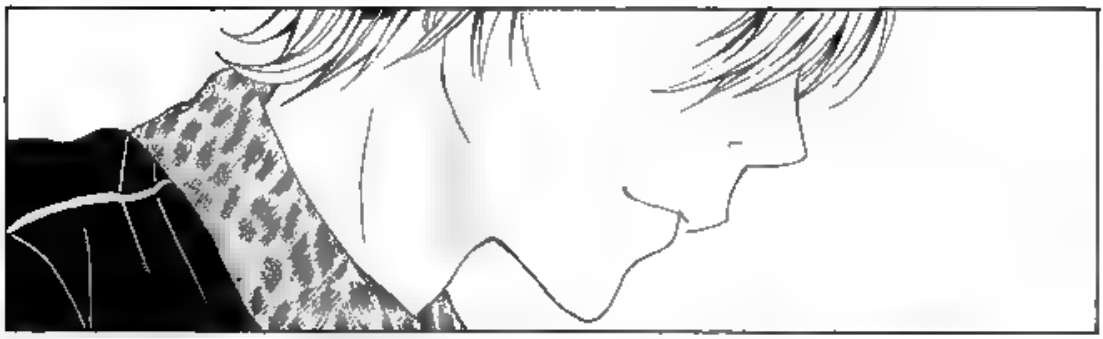
ARE YOU STRAINING YOURSELF, TRYING TO GIVE A VAGUE REPLY?


IF POSSIBLE, COULD YOU JUST FORGET ABOUT IT?
SOME-HOW.

NOTHING. IF I SAID ANYTHING, SHE'D TRY TO STOP ME.
ISN'T THIS PROBLEM BETWEEN US TO BEGIN WITH?

WHAT DID YOU TELL HAKAZE BEFORE YOU CAME HERE?

OF ALL THE PLACES,
BUT...
WE UNEXPECTEDLY MEET HERE...
...WE'RE CARELESS.
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED THE REASON WE MET HERE?
.....?
IN "HAMLET" AFTER OPHELIA'S DEATH, D'N'T LAERTES AND HAMLET,
MEET IN THE CEMETERY BY CHANCE?



THE PROMISE.
TELL ME ABOUT AIKA'S BOYFRIEND.

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT,
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND TOO.

IT SHOULDN'T BE ANY EXTRA TROUBLE TO TALK ABOUT HER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
NONE AT ALL.

The Civilization Blaster

ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou
and SAIZAKI Ren

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Zetsuen no Tempest ch 31

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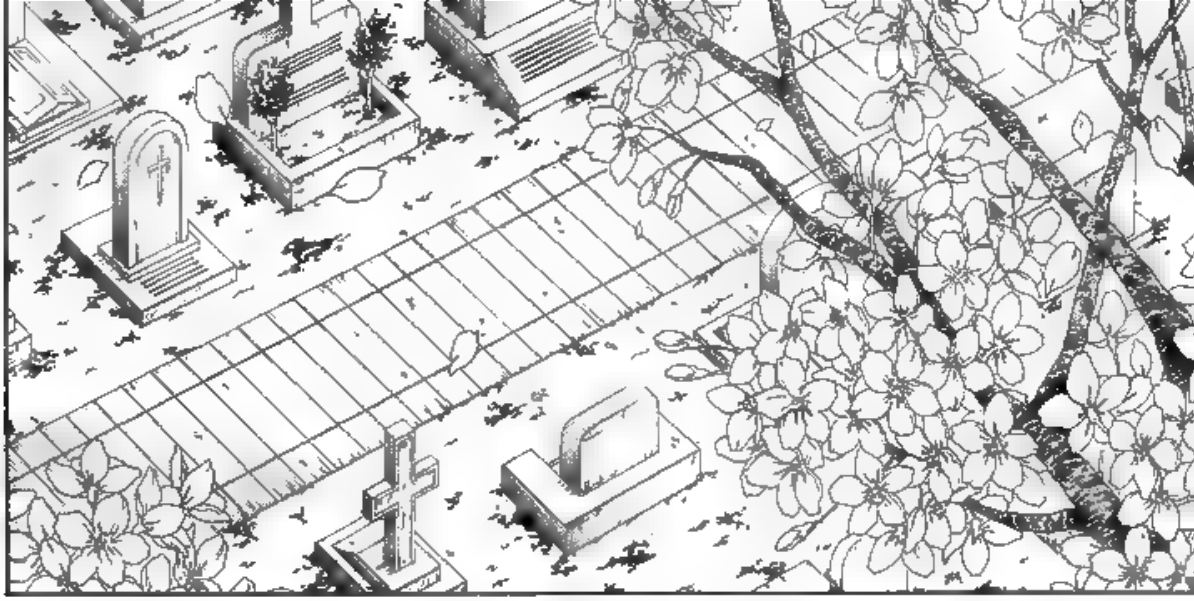


SO...
I AM AIKA-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND.

IS IT ALL RIGHT TO EXPLAIN?

...DON'T SETTLE THIS WITH JUST A "SO".
EXPLAIN EVERYTHING RIGHT FROM THE BEGIN-NING.

HUH?

I'LL EXPLAIN IF IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WHEN WE HAD OUR FIRST KISS...
INCLUDING A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ALL THE SENSATIONS...

AND...

WHEN I STARTED DATING AIKA-CHAN...
WHERE WE WENT FOR OUR DATES...

WHERE WE HELD HANDS FOR THE FIRST TIME...

YOU KISSED AIKA?!
YOU'VE KISSED?!
DON'T SAY SHE'S YOURS.
SHE'S NOT YOURS EITHER!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY AIKA?!
AFTER ALL, I AM THE GENUINE ONE!
I AM AIKA-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND!
NO.
BUT IN THIS SITUATION, ISN'T IT RIGHT FOR ME TO CALL HER MINE?
DAMN...

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SECRETLY DATING AIKA BEHIND MY BACK...
YOU ADMITTED TO IT WHEN YOU CAME HERE.
WELL...
BECAUSE I CAME HERE PREPARED TO BE BEATEN CLOSE TO DEATH.
CONSIDERING ALL THAT, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME HERE WITH HAKAZE?
IF SHE WERE HERE...
SHE COULD HEAL YOU IMMEDIATELY EVEN IF YOU WERE FATALLY WOUNDED.
EVEN IF SHE'D HEAL ME IMMEDIATELY, YOU'D BEAT ME TO A PULP AGAIN.
IT'S ENOUGH TO GO THROUGH THAT PAIN ONCE.

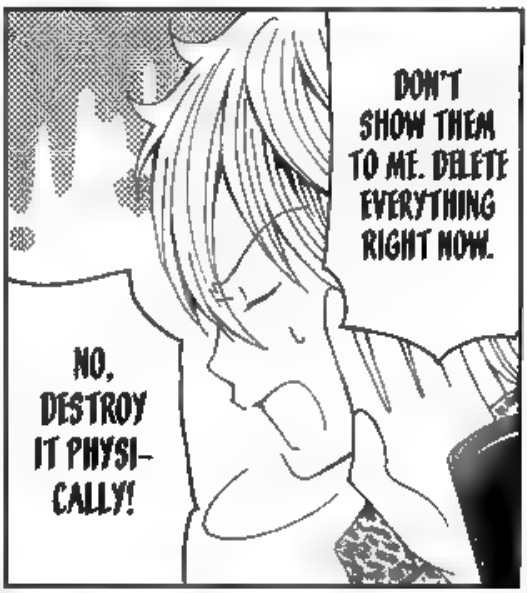
USUALLY, WHEN I AM AWARE OF WHICH DIRECTION TO HEAD IN...
I'M ALWAYS TOO LATE.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER...
THAT IS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE THINKING.
I AM USELESS, RIGHT?
YOU'RE STILL A USELESS GUY, AS ALWAYS.
BUT YOU ARE AIKA'S BOYFRIEND.
YES, I AM.

I HAVE LOTS OF PHOTOS WITH AIKA-CHAN...
カチ
カチ

IF YOU NEED PROOF

ON MY CELL PHONE ...

THIS ONE IS OF US IN YUKATA, LINKING ARMS...
DON'T SAY THAT.
I SAID: DON'T SHOW IT TO ME!


DON'T SHOW THEM TO ME. DELETE EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW.
NO, DESTROY IT PHYSI-CALLY!

YOU'RE JUST TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PISS ME OFF.

SO...
ARE YOU GOING TO THRASH ME?
WELL...
I DATED AIKA-CHAN BEHIND YOUR BACK.
DID YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME TO BEAT YOU UP?
AIKA-CHAN'S OLDER BROTHER.
NO, BUT YOU ARE STILL...
EVEN IF I'M HER BROTHER, THERE'S NO OBLIGATION TO REPORT TO ME.
I NEVER INTRODUCED ALL THE WOMEN I DATED TO YOU EITHER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPORT TO ME IN PARTICULAR.

YOU DATED AIKA JUST TO GET BEATEN UP BY ME?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT...
WHAT KIND OF DATING WOULD THAT BE?
BUT SHE'S AIKA-CHAN.
IT FELT LIKE AIKA-CHAN HAD SOMETHING ON ME.
ON THE CONTRARY ...
AND MADE HER DATE YOU AGAINST HER WILL.
OR YOU HAD SOMETHING ON AIKA...
THEN...
I HAVE NO REASON TO BEAT YOU UP.

I WAS NOTHING...
TO AIKA AT ALL.

IT IS ILLOGICAL TO BEAT YOU ALMOST TO DEATH.

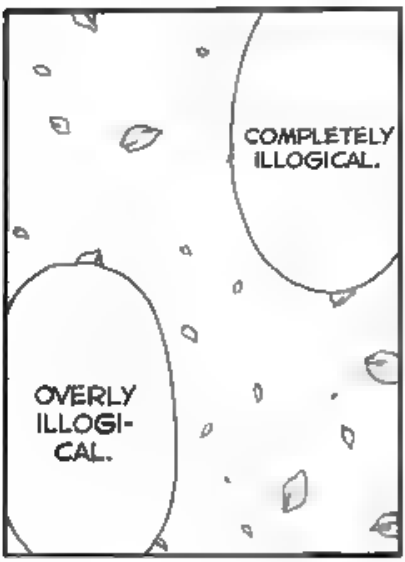
I WASN'T EVEN A GOOD OLDER BROTHER.
I WASN'T EVEN PROPERLY ACKNOWL-EDGED AS AN OLDER BROTHER

I WASN'T ...
EVEN AIKA'S FRIEND.

MUCH LESS LOVERS...
I'VE NEVER EVEN SAID THAT I LOVED HER.
I...
NEVER TOLD AIKA ANYTHING.

I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE MY OWN FEELINGS UNTIL RECENTLY.
WHETHER IT IS LOVE OR SOMETHING ELSE...
I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF THEM.

WHAT RIGHT DOES A GUY LIKE ME HAVE...
TO BEAT UP A GUY WHO LOVED AND DATED AIKA?


COMPLETELY ILLOGICAL.
OVERLY ILLOGI-CAL.

IT'S ILLOGI-CAL.

IF THAT AIKA HAD A MAN SHE LOVED AND ENJOYED HER TIME WITH HIM,
IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
ALL THE MORE SO WHEN THAT MAN IS YOU.

really strong...
...Mahiro, you're...

AIKA WAS A NICE GIRL, RIGHT?
SHE HAD A BAD PERSON-ALITY, THOUGH.
SHE WAS A NICE GIRL, RIGHT?
HER CHEST WAS FLAT, THOUGH.

...BEING THE BOYFRIEND DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU CAN SAY ANYTHING YOU WANT ABOUT HER.

AT MOUNT FUJI, IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO SIDE WITH HAKAZE.
WAS AIKA THE REASON YOU DID SO?
I THOUGHT THAT IF I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING AT THAT TIME...
AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH WOULD BRING FORTH A TRAGEDY.
SO I FELT LIKE I HAD TO PREVENT THAT.
EVEN NOW, I STILL INTEND TO ACT FOR THAT SAKE
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO MAKE IT SO THAT...
IN THE END, PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE THAT AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH SAVED THE WORLD.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO TO AVENGE AIKA-CHAN.
BUT THAT IS THE ONE THING I WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON.
...YOU KNOW THAT TOO?
"THE TEMPEST" ...
RIGHT?
IN ANY CASE, I AM STILL AIKA'S OLDER BROTHER.
I WON'T FORGIVE THE ONE WHO KILLED AIKA.
EVEN IF IT ENDS IN TRAGEDY.

I AM NOT OBLIGATED TO GET ALONG WITH AIKA'S BOY-FRIEND.
ARE WE ENEMIES?
IN THAT CASE...
BECAUSE AIKA-CHAN INSISTED ON DOING SO.
YOU HID THE FACT THAT YOU WERE DATING AIKA REALLY WELL.
...BUT YOSHI-NO...
I SOMEHOW MANAGED.
YES... WELL...
I MEANT AFTER HER DEATH.
NO,

Hmph.
Putting up a strong front meaninglessly...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
YOU REALLY TRUST ME.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MAHIRO...
WITH ME BEING LIKE THAT, I'D GET IT IF YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE...
THAT I ACTUALLY WENT OUT WITH AIKA-CHAN.
EVEN AFTER AIKA-CHAN DIED...
I CONTINUED LIVING AS COMPOSED AS I'D ALWAYS BEEN.
IS THAT SO?
THAT IS SO.
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.
I STILL LIVE AS COMPOSED AS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

WHETHER IT'S CRYING OR FEELING SAD...
YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF PERSON TO DO SO IN FRONT OF ME.

WHAT COULD I SAY ABOUT YOU LOOKING COMPOSED?
I KNOW YOU ARE THAT KIND OF PERSON.

I...

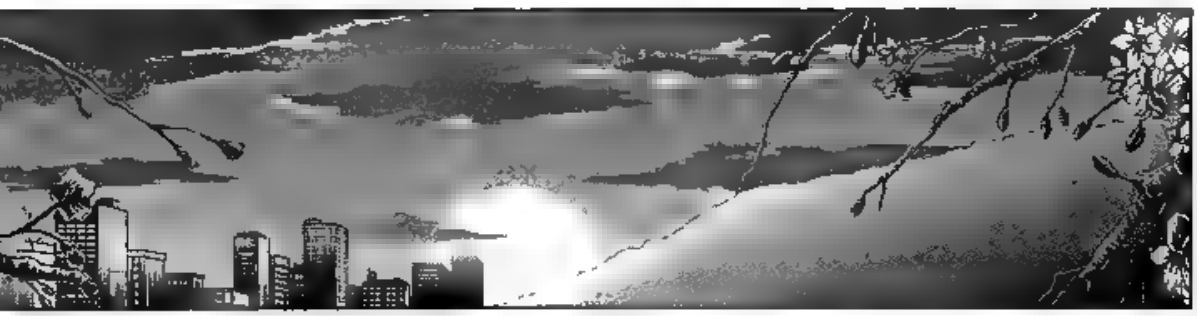
NEVER CRIED OR BAWLED IN FRONT OF YOU EITHER

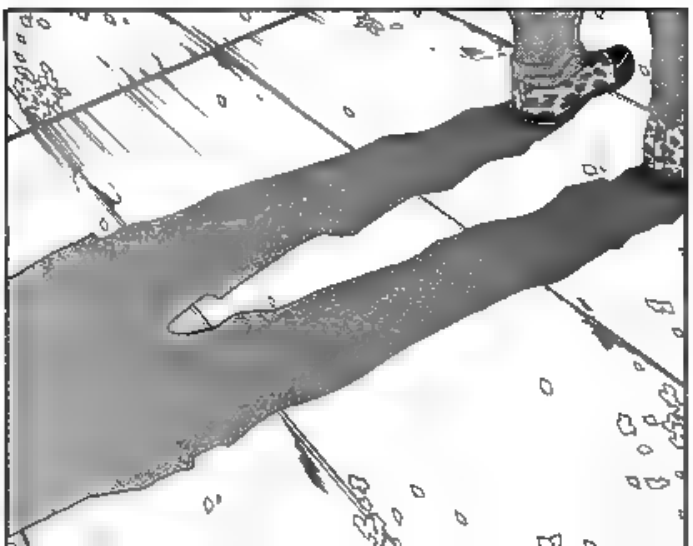
...WHEN YOU WEREN'T WITH ME...
DID YOU CRY?

AIKA.
OI.

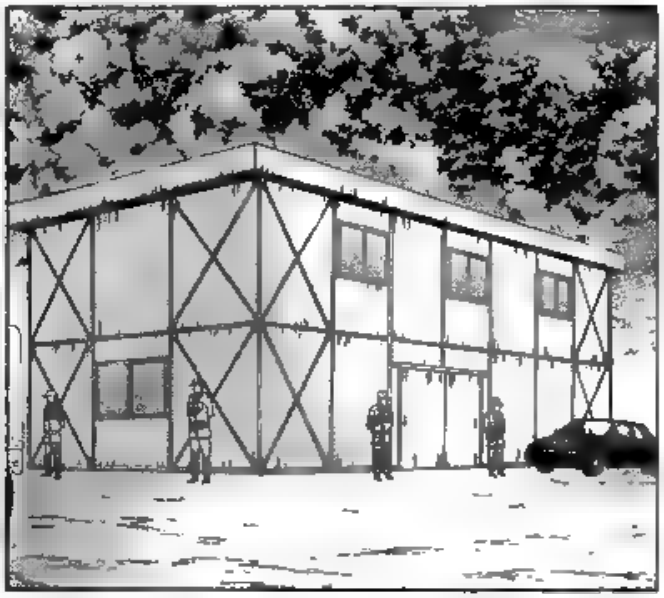
YOU LOOK LIKE A SICKLY DAUGHTER, BROUGHT UP TENDERLY...
SO WHY DO YOU LOOK AND BEHAVE LIKE A SLOB?
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
I AM NOT A SICKLY DAUGHTER, BROUGHT UP TENDERLY.
INSTEAD, MAHIRO, YOU PUSH YOUR IDEALS ONTO YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
SUCH BAD TASTE.
YOUR CURRENT POSE SHOWS MORE BAD TASTE.
?
WHEN YOU CAN ACCEPT THE KIND OF PERSON I AM...
YOU WILL HAVE BECOME AN ADULT AS WELL, MAHIRO.

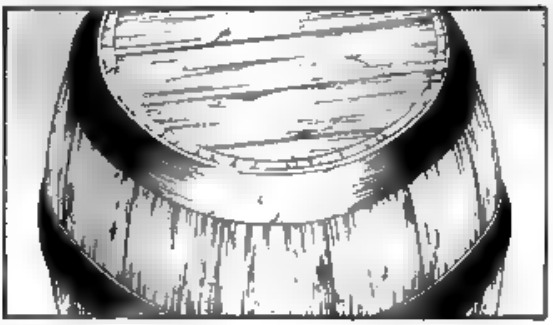
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS SHOULDN'T TALK SO CONCEITEDLY.
IF YOU STAY LIKE THIS...
YOU WON'T BE GETTING A BOYFRIEND ANY TIME SOON.
HONESTLY...

I REALLY, REALLY...
LOVE AIKA...




.....
MAYBE YOU SHOULD BEAT ME UP, JUST THIS ONCE?
IF I THRASH YOU, JUST ONCE WON'T CUT IT.

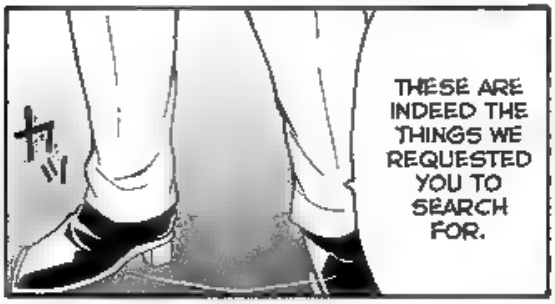




MAYBE HE'S AN ADMINIS-TRATIVE BIG SHOT, OR FROM THE GOVERN-MENT?
NO, HE ISN'T FROM THE STAFF.

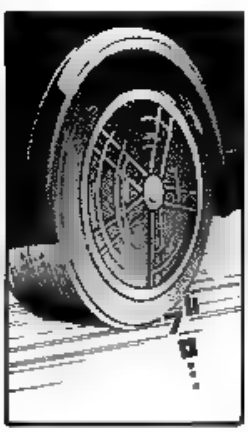
HAVEN'T WE SEEN HIM BEFORE?
THAT MAN...

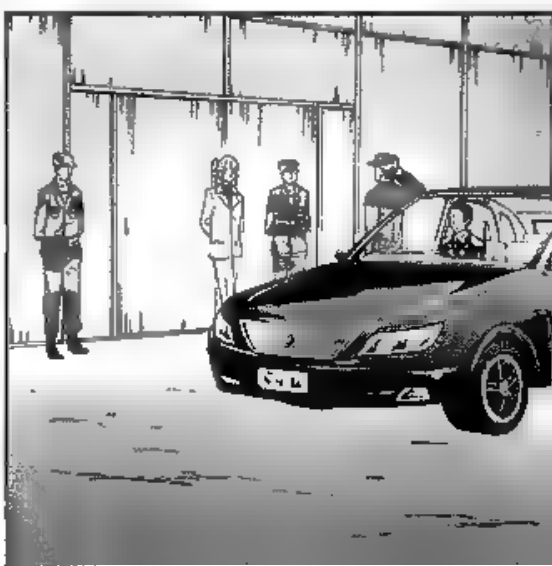
WOULD A BIG SHOT HAVE SUCH LONG HAIR?


THESE ARE INDEED THE THINGS WE REQUESTED YOU TO SEARCH FOR.

THE TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES, AS INSTRUCTED.
WELL THEN, PROCEED WITH...

THEY ARE NOT DAMAGED OR DEFORMED IN A WAY THAT COULD BE PROBLEMATIC.
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.





But will it go as expected?
can predict how she will use them...
The barrel and doll have been recovered undamaged.
t turned out as the Princess wished.
that something will happen...
Even if everything goes well, I can't shake off this bad feeling...
This is Natsumura.
Pardon me, Samondono.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ME.

FUWA MAHIRO AND TAKIGAWA YOSHINO...
HAVE RETURNED TO THE APARTMENT TOGETHER.

NOT SURE IF I CAN CALL IT A PROBLEM...

WHAT?!

ARE THEIR LIMBS STILL INTACT?

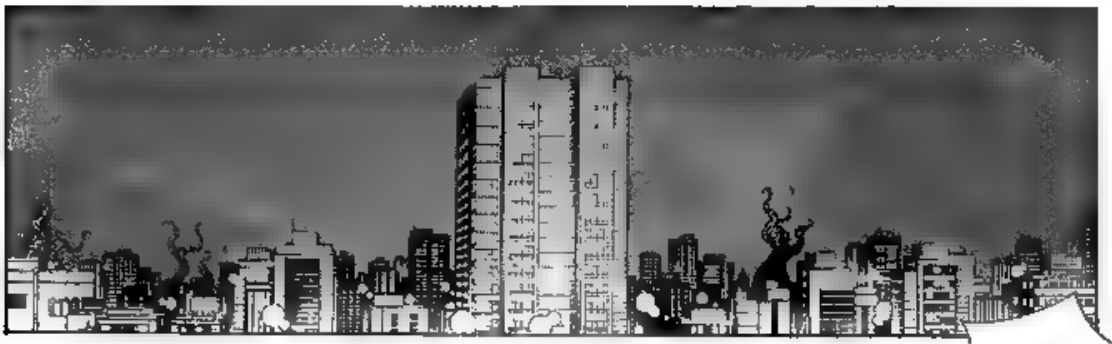
RECON-CILED...

LOOKS LIKE...

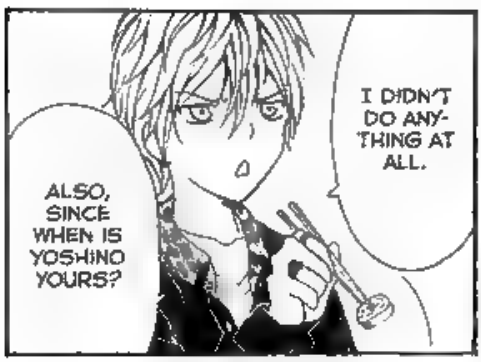
THEY HAVE REC-ONCILED OVER THE MATTER OF THE LITTLE SISTER...

IS THE PRINCESS THERE?
...AND THE PRINCESS?
It doesn't look like they had a fight..
Yes.
THE PRINCESS ONLY JUST FOUND OUT THROUGH FRAULEIN-DONO.
AND SHE WAS IN A GREAT PANIC...
SHE'S NOT HERE.
ON THE CONTRARY, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
Both of them will be coming here shortly.
ALTHOUGH I AM SUPPOSED TO BE GLAD OVER THEIR RECONCILIATION...
...I UNDERSTAND. I WILL RETURN TOMORROW AS WELL.
CONTACT ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO BE TROUBLED BY THIS MATTER?



IF YOU LEAVE EVEN A SINGLE BRUISE ON HIM, I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR IT!


I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING AT ALL.
ALSO, SINCE WHEN IS YOSHINO YOURS?

MAHIRO!
YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING TO MY YOSHINO, DID YOU?!

BEHAVING RECKLESSLY WITHOUT CONSULTING ME!

DIDN'T YOU USE IT WRONGLY?
IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH!

YOSHINO!
AND YOU TOO!

I THINK THAT YOUR DECISION WAS CORRECT...

What a huge difference from how she treats me...

WELL...

I'M SORRY,
BUT THIS WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO DO.

IT'S AS IF...
NOTHING HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN THOSE TWO.

IT MAKES US, WHO HAD A HARD TIME PAYING ATTENTION TO THEM, LOOK LIKE FOOLS.
ALTHOUGH I'M GLAD THAT WE HAVE SETTLED A MAJOR PROBLEM.
YES.
THEY TALKED ABOUT THE LITTLE SISTER WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THEM.
...IS IT REALLY SETTLED?
IF TAKIGAWA YOSHINO TURNS OUT TO BE THE MAGICIAN OF EXODUS AND THE KILLER...
THE SITUATION COULD BECOME EVEN WORSE...
WE STILL DON'T KNOW...
WHO KILLED FUWA AIKA.

AT THIS RATE...
IT WOULDN'T JUST END WITHOUT THEM FIND-ING OUT ANYTHING.
THE KILLER...
Can you remain rational, no matter who the killer is?
Mahiro...

YES.
IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST YOSHINO.
FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TEL... THE WOMAN I LOVE THAT I LOVE HER.
I'M JUST UNHAPPY, HAVING TO COME TO TERMS WITH MY PATHETIC SELF...

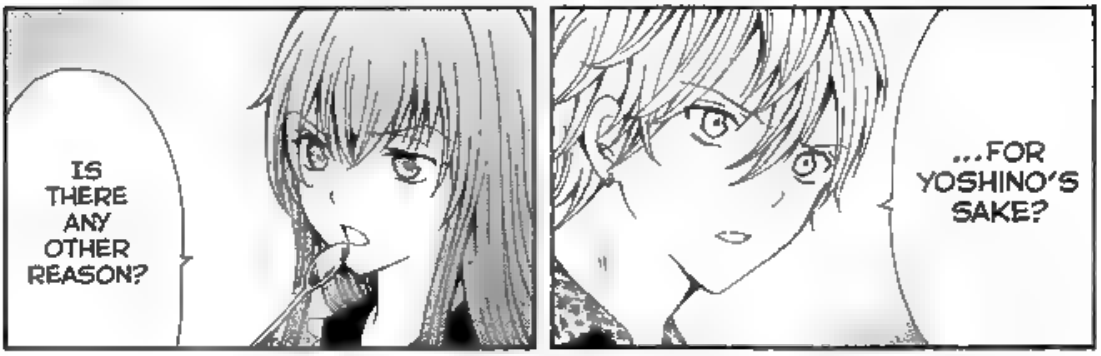
WHY...
SHOULD I ACT ACCORDING TO A PLAY FROM HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO?
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU WILL NOT...
ACT ACCORDING TO THE STORY OF "HAMLET?"
MOST LIKELY, YOSHINO ...
ONLY HAS EYES FOR AIKA.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS?
ALSO...
THERE ARE MANY CASES OF UNREQUITED LOVE IN THIS WORLD.
I'M NOT GETTING MY HOPES UP.

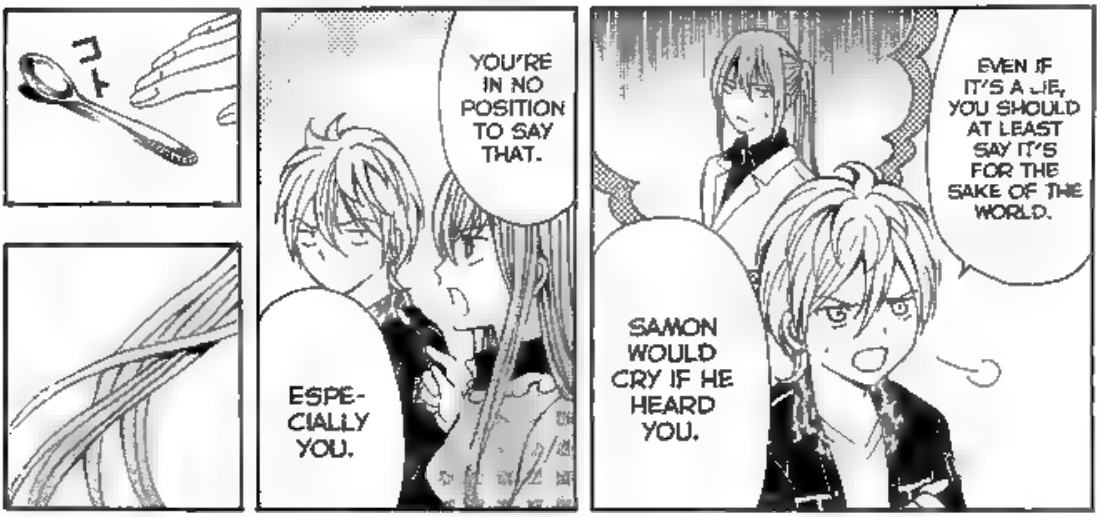
I OUGHT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FANTASY AND REALITY.
I HAVE TO SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY EXISTENCE AND MY ACTIONS.
IF YOSHINO IS THE MAGICIAN OF EXODUS ...
HE WILL KILL ME FOR WHAT I AM.
IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH FUWA AIKA'S DEATH...
YOU WILL KILL ME.
LIVE A LONG LIFE?
DOESN'T IT SEEM UNLIKELY THAT I WILL...

JUST LIKE THE STAGE PLAY "HAMLET"?
AS THE BROTHER WHO LOST HIS LITTLE SISTER...
FURTHER-MORE, IF YOSHINO WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED FUWA AIKA...
MAHIRO, WILL YOU KILL HIM?
...ONLY IF IT IS LOGICAL.
YOU...
HAVE YOU COME UP WITH A WAY TO FIND AIKA'S KILLER?
ALSO ...
ENOUGH WITH THE HYPO-THETICAL TALK.

BUT...
I'LL GET TO THE SEE THE TRUTH.
IF IT GOES WELL....
YES.

I HAVE TO PREVENT THIS TRAGEDY.
WHATEVER THE TRUTH MAY BE...


IS THERE ANY OTHER REASON?
...FOR YOSHINO'S SAKE?


カチ
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO SAY THAT.
ESPE-CIALLY YOU.
EVEN IF IT'S A LIE, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST SAY IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.
SAMON WOULD CRY IF HE HEARD YOU.

AFTER ALL, HUMANS ARE STRONGER...
WHEN THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE INSTEAD OF SOMETHING.
...INSTEAD OF DOING IT FOR THE WORLD...
I CHOSE TO DO THIS FOR THE MAN I LOVE SO THAT I WON'T FEEL LOST.

MAHIRO, PLEASE.
DON'T FORGET WHO YOU ARE FIGHTING FOR.
I...
TAKE ACTION ONLY FOR MY OWN SAKE.
...But even if it's just for once...
I should pay a proper visit to Aika's grave...

絶園のテンペスト

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou
and SAIZAKI Ren

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Zetsuen no Tempest ch 32

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絶園のテンペスト

CHAPTER 33: MAGIC DOLL

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

Hi.
I am Hanemura Megumu.
IT'S NOT ABOUT THINKING.
YOU HAVE TO FEEL IT!
I trained with Jun-ichirou-san until late last night.
YES, SIR!!
SORRY WE ARE LATE—
When we returned to Haya-kawa-san's apartment afterwards.

Yoshino-kun and Hakaze-san were sitting there, fitting right in,

and it looked as if everything had been resolved.

Somehow, it seems like Makiro-kun stayed calm and has forgiven Yoshino-kun, who dated his sister.

was sure he would have beaten up Yoshino-kun.

What a surprise.

BUT...
YOU REALLY ENDURE IT WELL--
WELL, YOU ALMOST DESTROYED THE WORLD, EVEN DESPITE YOUR SELF-CONTROL.
I NEVER ACTUALLY DID THAT.
WHY DO BOTH HAKAZE AND YOU ...
...THINK I'M A GUY WITHOUT ANY SELF-CONTROL?
BECAUSE I HAD TIME TO THINK IT OVER BEFORE CONFRONTING YOSHINO,
I DID NOT MAKE THE WRONG JUDGMENT.
ALSO...

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR IT.
IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU ARE PUTTING UP A STOIC FRONT?
I'M SAYING THAT...
MILK
HUH?
I MIGHT HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
...IF YOU HADN'T REALIZED ABOUT YOSHINO AND AIKA AT THAT TIME,
REST ASSURED.
...I SEE.
THANK YOU.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU HADN'T, I MIGHT NOT HAVE PUT UP WITH IT,
AND WOULD HAVE LOST MY TEMPER LATER ON.
In his own way,
Mahiro-kun made the best choice.
He's an overbearing and egoistic guy who doesn't listen to anyone,
but I think that he is a good person at heart.
On the contrary---
I feel more like Yoshino-kun is the nasty one...

The problem with Manirokun has been solved.
バサッ
Hakaze-san's party officially joined up with us.
The next day,
One way or another, the place everyone stays at is important.
We prepared a new room in the apartment.
And the number of people increased.

It's meaningless to call this a hideout.
The fact that both I, the Magician of Exodus, and Hakaze-san, the Magician of Genesis, are here, means that this is the frontier to the truth.
It's kind of fun, like building a secret hideout.
But, for Mahiro-kun...
FOR WOMEN ONLY?
ARE THERE ANY WOMEN HERE WHO FEEL CONSCIOUS ABOUT THAT?
HOW ABOUT ...
... MAKING THIS BEDROOM FOR WOMEN ONLY?

HEY.
DON'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF ME, EVEN IF IT'S TRUE.
FRAULEIN-SAN AND HAKAZE-SAN ARE HERE
NEITHER OF THEM ARE NORMAL WOMEN.
AFTER ALL, WE HAVE TRAVELLED TOGETHER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.
SINCE YOSHINO AND I ARE WORKING TOGETHER NOW,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL ASSIGN THIS ROOM TO THE TWO OF US.
THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS AT ALL!
HOW PATHETIC.
DOING NOTHING AT ALL IN THAT SITUATION JUST MAKES THE OTHER PARTY FEEL BAD.
NO, NO.
WE NEVER SHARED A ROOM IN THE HOTELS WE STAYED AT.

WOW, MAH.RO.
YOU SAID SOMETH.NG GOOD.
I TR ED TO SEDUCE YOSHINO MANY T.MES.
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK ON HIM.
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT?
E...
Even if you ask me...
WHAT'S THAT?
COULD IT BE YOU ARE ST LL FAITHFUL TO AIKA?
IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL...
FOR ME TO BEAT YOU UP.
WOULDN'T YOU BE MAD IF I WASN'T?

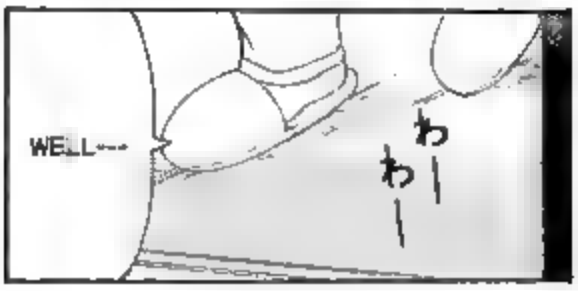
YOU MIGHT FIND THAT I AM MORE TENDER...
...AND IRRESISTIBLE THAN FUWA AIKA.

SO, SINCE YOU'LL GET BEATEN UP ANYWAY,
するっ
FEEL FREE TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON ME, YO-SHINO.

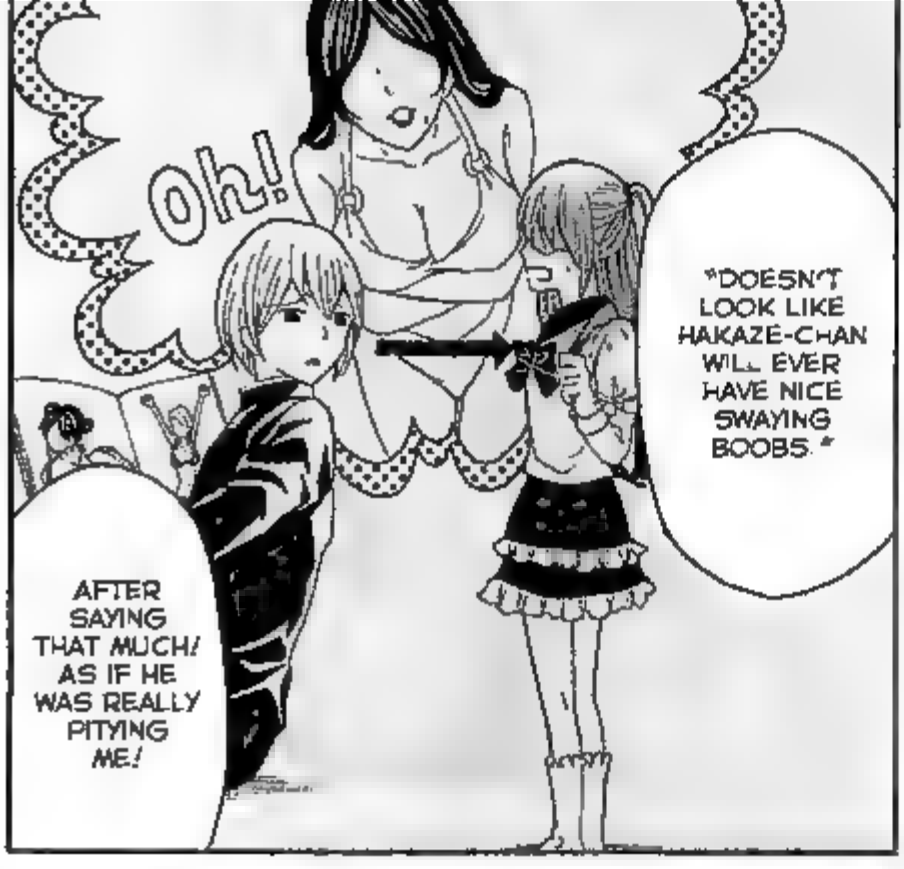
HER ARMS WERE AS SLENDER AS BUR-DOCKS...
INDEED, AIKA-CHAN WAS BONY AND HARD.

ENOUGH WITH THE NAUGHTY JOKES---
ひょいっ

DON'T COMPARE MY SISTER'S BODY TO VEGETABLES!


WELL---
わーわー

Ahaha.
THEN YOU SHOULD MAKE IT SOUND NAUGHTIER
...
HOW INDECENT, JUN-NI SAN.
THAT WASN'T A JOKE?
WELL...
HE WAS ONCE AN OLDER BROTHER I ADMIRED.
I WAS SURE THAT YOU LIKED THIS GUY
AM I MISTAKEN?
BUT, HAKAZE,
SEXY
THAT'S WHEN I LOST MY LOVE FOR HIM.
I CAUGHT H.M SAYING "BOOBIES! BOOBIES!" WHILE HE WAS ENTHUS.-ASTICALLY LEAFING THROUGH SOME MAGAZINES.
BUT, WHEN I WAS BARELY TEN YEARS OLD...


Oh!
"DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HAKAZE-CHAN WILL EVER HAVE NICE SWAYING BOOBS."
AFTER SAYING THAT MUCH! AS IF HE WAS REALLY PITYING ME!

...
AND THE MAIN THING IS, BACK THEN, HE SAID TO ME:

MAYBE YOU SHOULD ...
...THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK.

WELL,
I NEVER MEANT ANYTHING SERIOUS BY THAT.

YOU ARE JUST AMAZING.
I AM THE PRINCESS OF A CLAN AFTER ALL.

YOU...
HAVE POOR JUDGMENT IN MEN.

YOSH. NO TOO.
THIS GUY.

AFTER ALL, YOSHINO WAS HER BOYFR END!
IF I HAVE POOR JUDGMENT,
DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOUR SISTER DID TOO?
OH?
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE SAYING THAT?
...!
IT'S JUST THAT THE WOMAN I LOVED HAPPENED TO BE MY SISTER FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME.
IT'S TEN YEARS TOO SOON FOR A SISCON LIKE YOU TO CRITICIZE ME!
I'M NOT A SISCON!

T/N: SISCON = SOMEONE WITH A STRONG EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THEIR SISTER.

No.
I'll most likely have to make decisions as well.

...And they are to decide the future of the world?

Having said that, unlike us,

Meetings, negotiations and arrangements regarding the Tree of Genesis,
the complete resurrection of the Tree of Exodus, preparations for the activation of the Fruit of Exodus.

Hayakawa-san and Samon-san were busy making their moves.

They were working quietly and steadily on matters we were completely unaware of.

I'M FINALLY DONE WITH THE PREPARATIONS FOR AREA B'S COMPENSATION AND EVACUATION.
YES.

WHEN IT IS TIME, I WILL HAVE THE KUSARIBE FOLLOWERS ENTER THE AREA.
UNDERSTOOD.

BE READY TO SEND THE FRUIT INTO THE AIR AS SOON AS EVERYONE HAS BEEN EVACUATED.
THE PLAN IS TO COMPLETE THE EVACUATIONS WITHIN TEN DAYS.

IS THERE ANY WAY TO PREVENT THAT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF THAT HAPPENS WITHIN THE EVACUATED ZONE, BUT THEY MIGHT FALL OUTSIDE THAT AREA.

WHEN THE FRUIT IS IN FLIGHT, WON'T THE SEALING CHAINS DROP?
ALSO...

...I WILL CONSULT THE PRINCESS ABOUT THAT.
ANYTHING ELSE?

...

EVEN OUR FOLLOWERS HAVE THEIR LIMITS...
...IT'S DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH.

TO WHAT EXTENT CAN MAGIC RESTORE THE DAMAGE IN THE EVACUATION ZONE?
AFTER THE FRUIT HAS TAKEN FLIGHT,

IF THOSE ARE DESTROYED, RECONSTRUCTIONS AND THE RETURNING OF THE EVACUEES TO THEIR HOMES WILL TAKE TOO LONG.

APART FROM THE DROP OF THE CHAINS, I EXPECT LARGE-SCALE COLLAPSES AS WELL AS GROUND FISSURES.
NEVER MIND THE BUILDINGS, BUT CAN AT LEAST THE MAIN ROADS, RAIL TRACKS AND NECESSITIES LIKE ELECTRICITY AND GAS BE RESTORED TO THEIR FORMER STATE?

What do you think?
If you can restore it immediately with magic, I would like for you to do so.
The power plant and industrial zone are in Area C.
If those are damaged in the process, the local economy will suffer greatly.
AS LONG AS IT IS NOT AN EXCEPTIONALLY HUGE OBJECT, WE CAN RESTORE IT TO A FUNCTIONAL STATE.
MOST OF OUR TRIBE MAGICIANS HAVE RECOVERED THEIR POWERS.
I WILL ENSURE THAT THE TALISMANS ARE SENT TO THE DESIGNATED AREA IN ADVANCE.
WE CAN GATHER THE OLD MILITARY FIREARMS AND TAKE THEM THERE. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
But...
...we need more talismans, and more magicians should be granted access to the area.

Can you take charge of transportation for the personnel?

I UNDERSTAND.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

THE CONSERVATIVES WHO SAY "DON'T DO ANYTHING UNNECESSARY"
ARE ALWAYS STRONG.

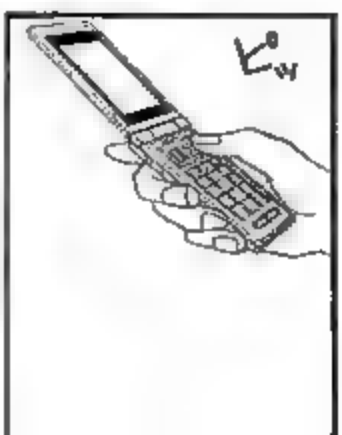
AS I EXPECTED, THIS IS TOUGH.
IF WE DON'T KEEP THE DAMAGE TO A MINIMUM, THE TREE OF GENESIS WILL GAIN MORE SUPPORTERS.

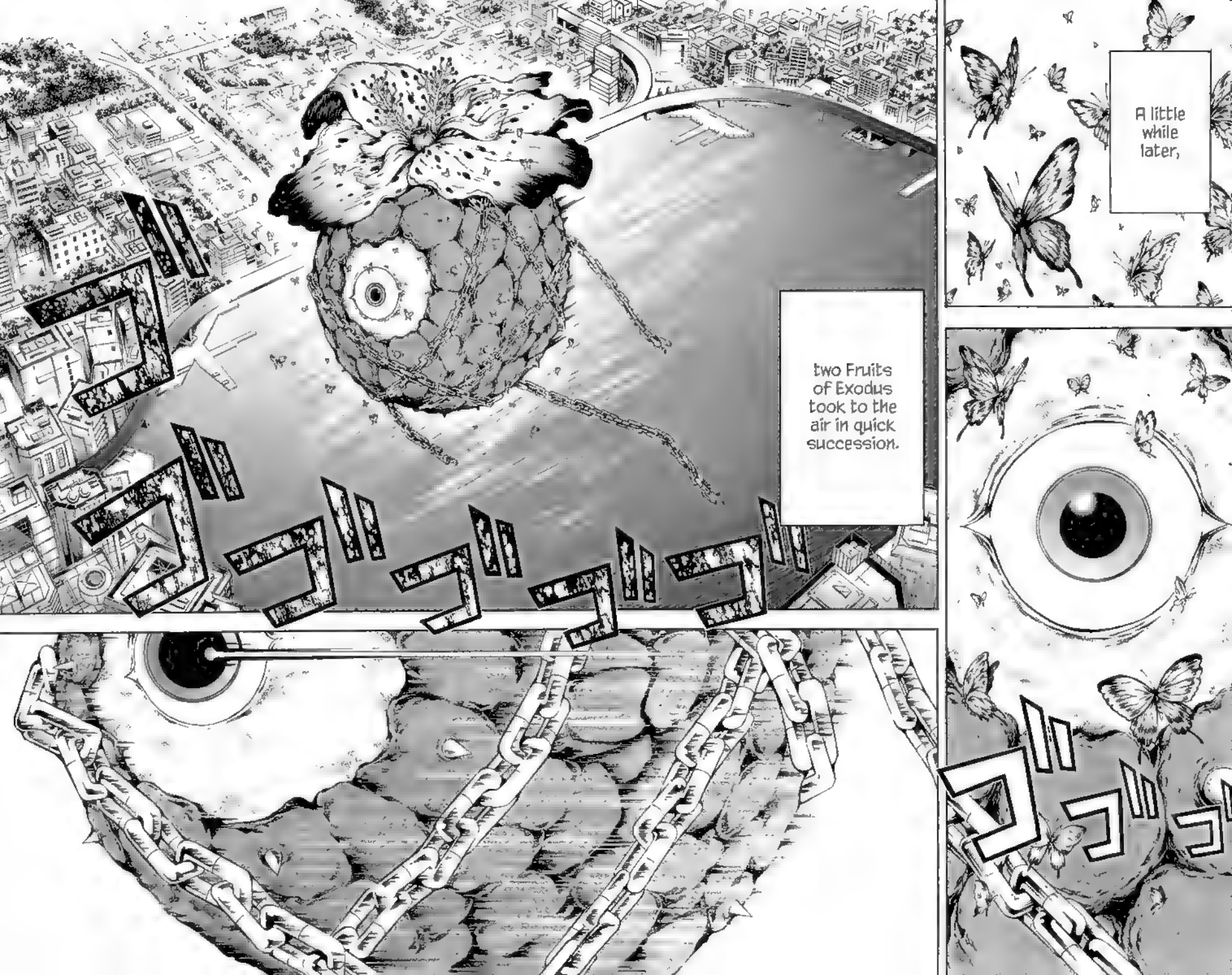
HMM.
THEY WILL CEASE TO EXIST IN THIS CHANGING WORLD WITHIN HALF A YEAR.

DON'T FALTER WHEN ONE OR TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE DIE.
CASUAL-TIES ARE INEVITABLE.

I CONSIDER IT A VICTORY IF MORE THAN HALF OF THE HUMAN POPU-LATION SUR-VIVES.
OF COURSE.

THE ADULTS HAVE TO PERSEVERE.
THE ONLY ONES A...OWED TO GIVE UP .N THE FACE OF TROUBLES ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE.




A little while later,
two Fruits of Exodus took to the air in quick succession.

Hakaze-san and I also cooperate in various aspects.
We make it look like a showdown between Maihime and the Magician of Exodus.
HAKAZE-SAN! ARE YOU SAYING THAT SOMEONE WILL SEE US FIGHTING...
...WHEN WE'RE FLYING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS AND IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?!

THE FRUITS SOARING INTO THE SKY...
...WILL BE CAPTURED BY CAMERAS EVERYWHERE.

IF PEOPLE ZOOM IN, THEY WILL SEE US FIGHTING.
65cm
...!!

HANEMURA, BEHIND YOU!
BOX

THIS TIME, OUR DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE FRUITS.
WE CANNOT LET EVEN A SINGLE INC DENT OCCUR IN THE MEANTIME.
UWA AH!
THEN PLEASE FOCUS ON THAT!
EVEN IF THEY WILL KNOW THAT WE ARE IN CAHOOTS WITH EACH OTHER?
NOT THAT IT MATTERS ANYWAY!

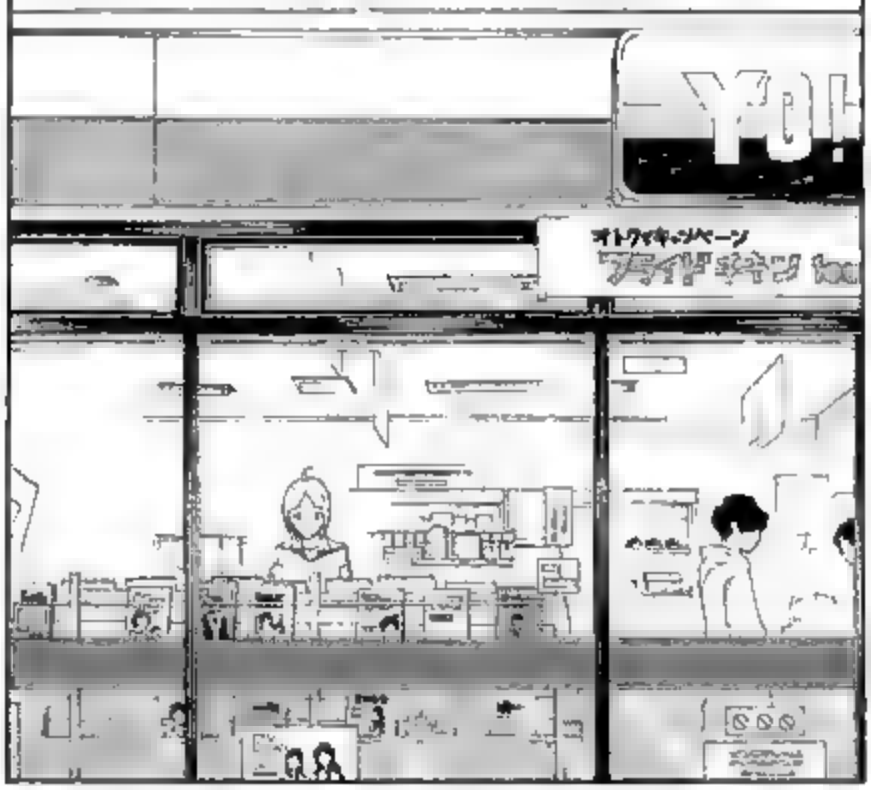
HAKAZE-SAN!
PLEASE HELP ME OUT A LITTLE!
THINK OF THIS AS TRAINING.
HAHAHA/
UWA AH!

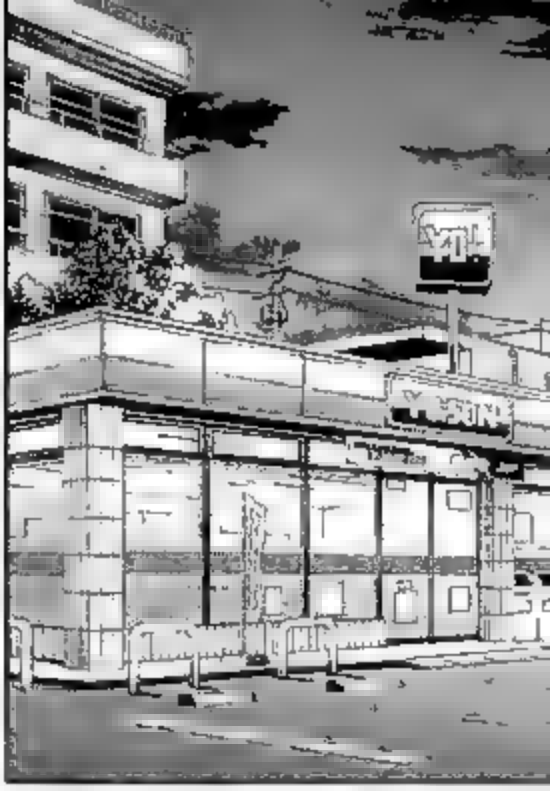
Hakaze-san is just as strict as always.
I'M JUST SAYING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE THE CHAIN FALL DELIBERATELY!
No, I don't even have the determination to win against her at all.

Makiro-kun said it before...
IN TERMS OF STRENGTH, I DON'T THINK...
...THERE'S THAT BIG A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND HAKAZE.
TO BEGIN WITH, THERE'S NO WAY THAT HAKAZE HAS THE ADVANTAGE, AS SHE DOESN'T POSSESS ANY OFFENSIVE MAGIC.
THEN,
WHAT DO I LACK?
RESOLU-TION?
カチャ
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

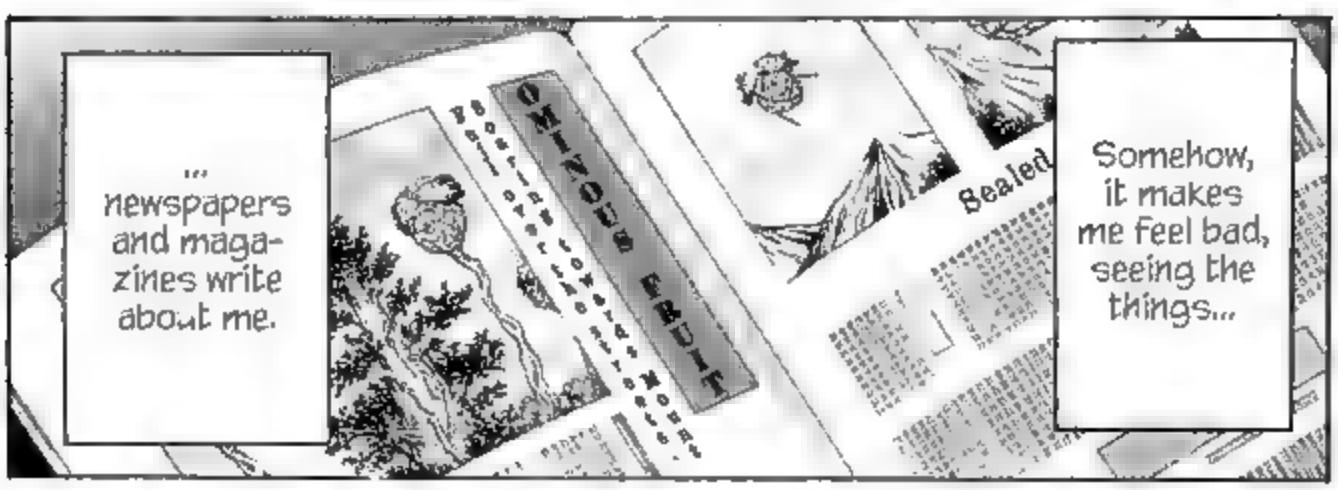
I'M SURE YOU COULD USE IT WELL, EVEN IF YOU HAD ACQUIRED IT SUDDENLY
...IF YOU OR YOSHINO-KUN HAD A POWER LIKE MINE,
キュ
BUT WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF SOMEONE WHO SUDDENLY ACQUIRED
INDEED, YOU'RE WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO RESOLUTION.
SUPER-NATURAL POWERS LIKE YOURS COULD USE THOSE POWERS UNFAZED?
キュ
HAVE YOSHINO AND I...
...DONE WELL IN PROTECTING ANYTHING?

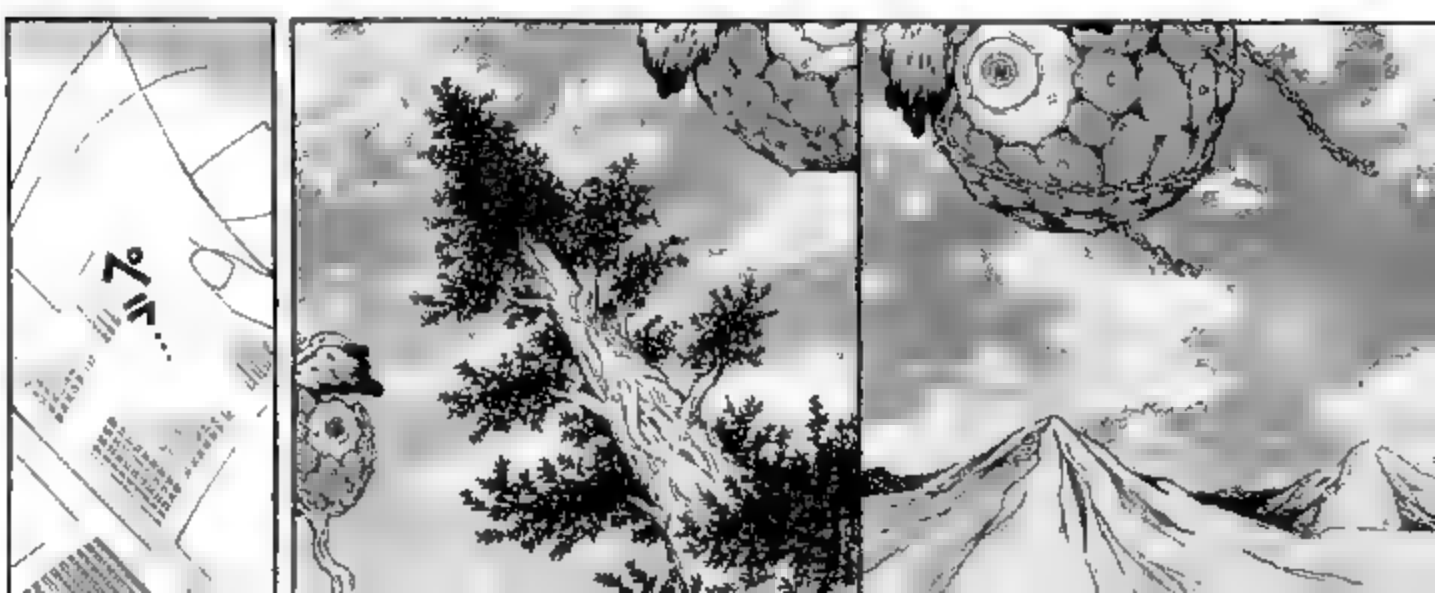
Even if you say so...
I am still bad at fighting after all this time.
I'm the one who can't protect anything at all.
...As expected,
I'm still lacking in many aspects.


YOU

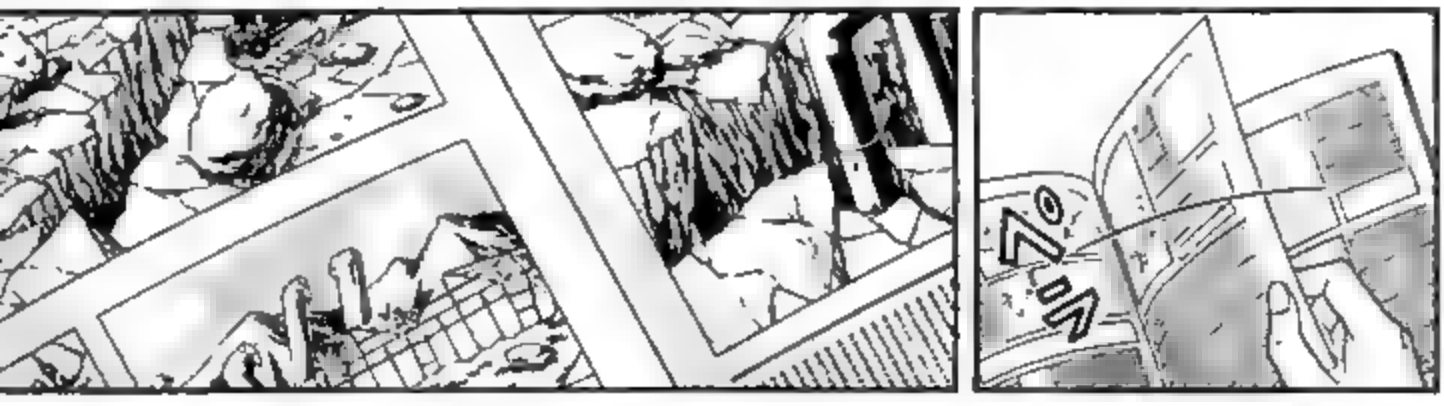


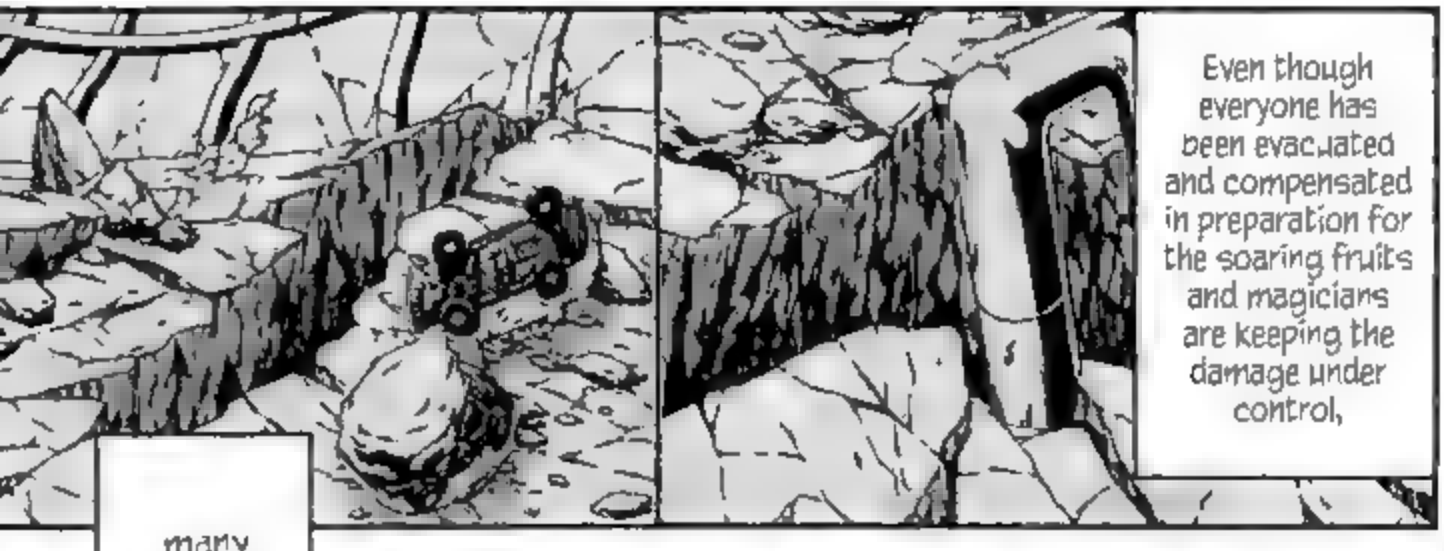
Even now...


... newspapers and magazines write about me.
Sealed
Somehow, it makes me feel bad, seeing the things...


ｶﾞﾝ...

THE MAGICIANS SECRETLY BATTLING UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE FRUIT?!
Which magician is eyeing the fruit?

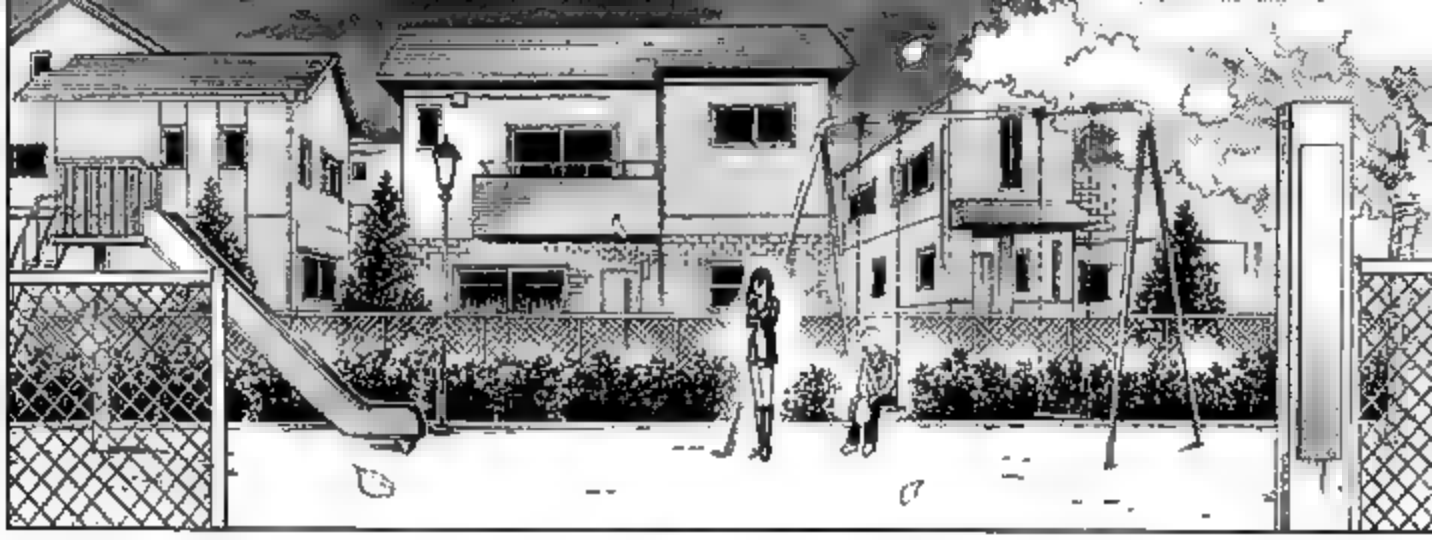



Even though everyone has been evacuated and compensated in preparation for the soaring fruits and magicians are keeping the damage under control,

many people must be having a terrible time.
週刊 SIGN

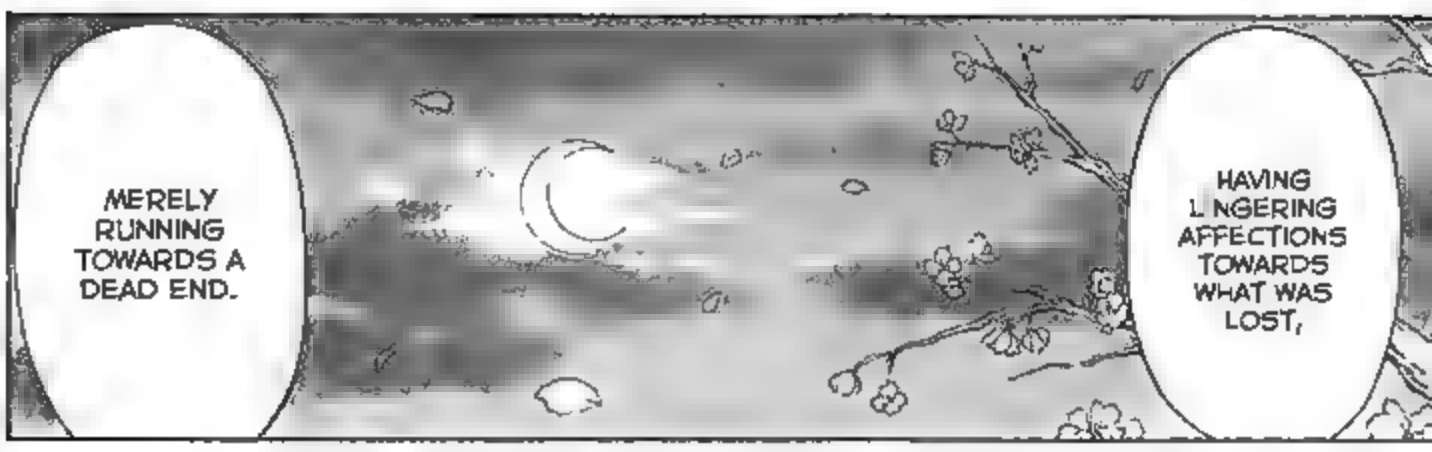
OVER 200,000 CIVILIANS EVACUATED...
...with these huge sacrifices?
Are we doing the right thing...
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING LIKE THAT?
GREAT MAGICIAN WITH THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE POWERS,
sigh...
I THINK...
...ME BECOMING A MAGICIAN WAS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE.

SOME KIND OF MISTAKE?
WELL, WE CAN'T DENY THAT POSSI-BILITY.
I CAN'T PROPERLY USE THIS EXTRAOR-DINARY POWER.
I DON'T KNOW IF I AM DOING THE RIGHT THING ANY-MORE.
IF YOU ARE NOT CONFIDENT IN YOURSELF,
THEN JUST ACT ACCORDING TO SOMEONE ELSE'S WORDS.
BUT IT'S FINE FOR YOU TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN THOUGHTS.
A-MODE
MAHIRO-KUN, YOSHINO-KUN, EVEN
HAKAZE-SAN, SAMON-SAN AND HAYAKAWA.
EACH OF THEM ACTS ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CONVICTIONS.
IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT NO ONE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT...
...IT'S NOT AS IF EVERYONE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING.
SALE!



...THE R WISHES FOR THE FUTURE ARE NO MORE THAN IMPOSS BLE DREAMS.

...
MAHIRO-KUN, YOSHINO-KUN, HAKAZE-SAN,
ALL THREE OF THEM ARE STRONG, BUT---

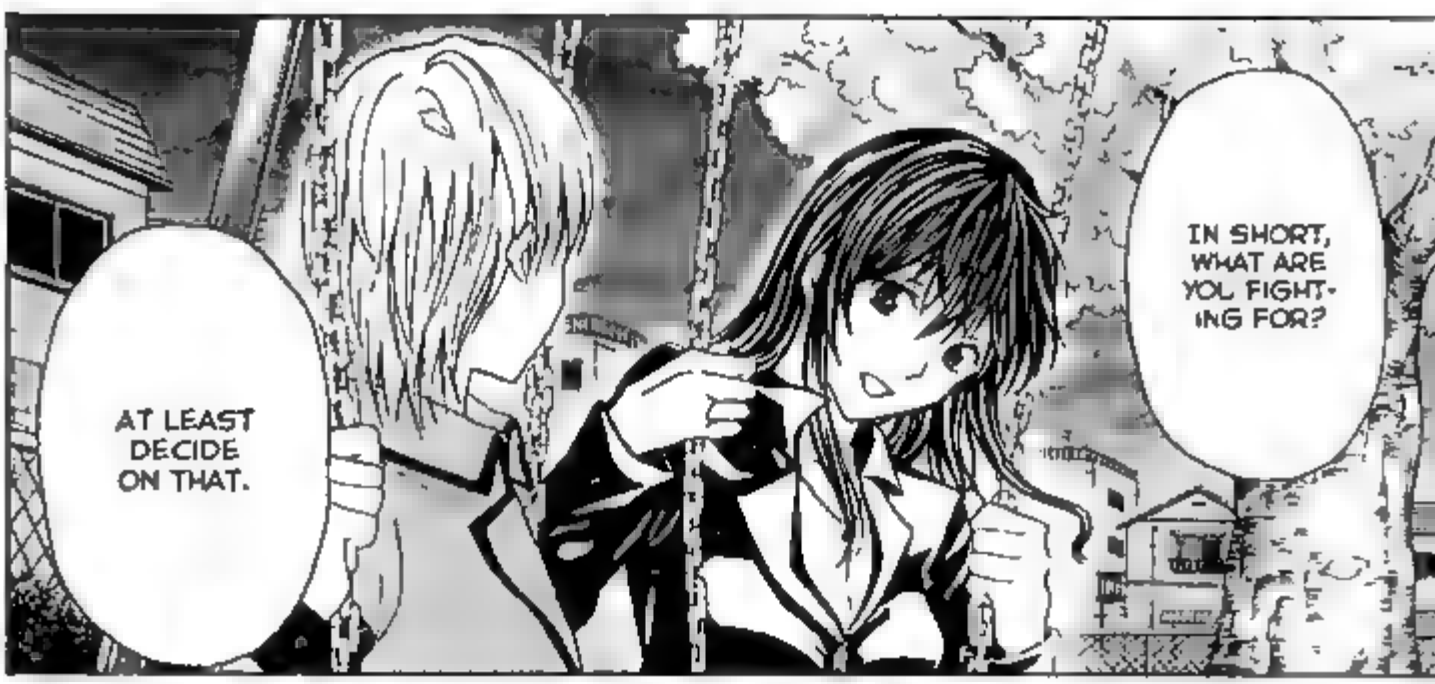

MERELY RUNNING TOWARDS A DEAD END.
HAVING L NGERING AFFECTIONS TOWARDS WHAT WAS LOST,

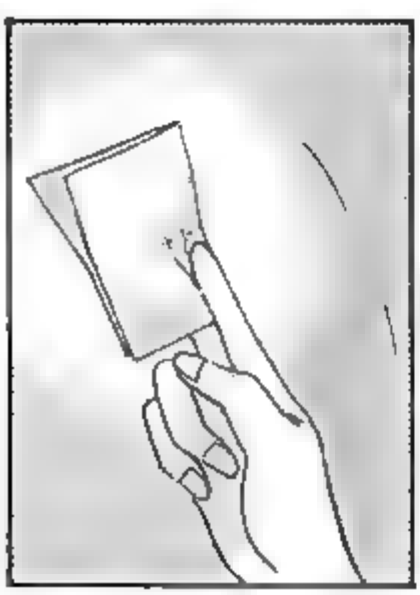
IS IT RIGHT TO GO ALONG WITH CHIL-DREN...
...WHO ARE HUNG UP ON THE DEAD?
THEN...
WHAT ABOUT SAMON-SAN AND HAYAKAWA-SAN?
EVEN THOUGH THOSE TWO ARE F GHTING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANK ND,
THEY BELIEVE THAT ANY KIND OF SACRIFICE WILL JUSTIFY THE END.
I CAN'T SAY THAT THOSE WHO SAVE 100 MILLION PEOPLE BY SACRIFIC NG 90 MILLION PEOPLE...
...ARE N THE R GHT.

..EACH PERSON'S RIGHTEOUS-NESS..
...CAN BE JUST A BAD JOKE FROM SOMEONE ELSE'S STANDPOINT.
ガシャン..

THAT IS NOT FUNNY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT...


AT LEAST DECIDE ON THAT.
IN SHORT, WHAT ARE YOU FIGHT-ING FOR?



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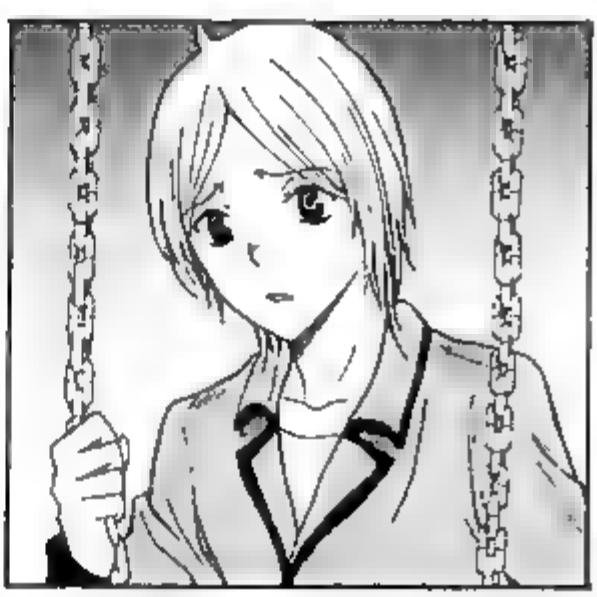


HER NAME IS KITASENRI SAKURAKO.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME.
HERE.
YOUR EX-GIRL-FRIEND'S NEW AD-DRESS.
HOW...
HER CELL PHONE NUMBER IS STILL THE SAME.
IF YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH, IT MEANS SHE HAS BLOCKED YOUR CALLS.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER MOVING WHEN EVEN I DON'T?!
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY GIRLFRIEND'S NAME?!
SINCE I HAVE ACCESS TO NATIONAL LEVEL INTELLIGENCE, I CAN CHECK YOUR PREVIOUS ASSOCIATES,
AND FIND OUT ANYONE'S PERSONAL DETAILS RIGHT AWAY, INCLUDING THEIR CURRENT ADDRESS.
YOU WEREN'T EVEN DATING YOUR GIRLFRIEND SECRETLY, LIKE YOSHINO-KUN.

IT IS A GOOD REASON ...
... TO FIGHT FOR THAT SAKE.

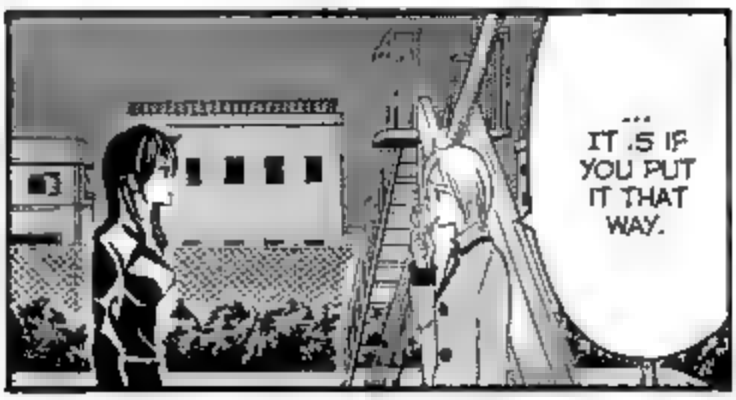
DON'T YOU STILL WANT TO FIX YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH HER?
DON'T YOU WANT TO SHOW HER HOW COOL YOU ARE?

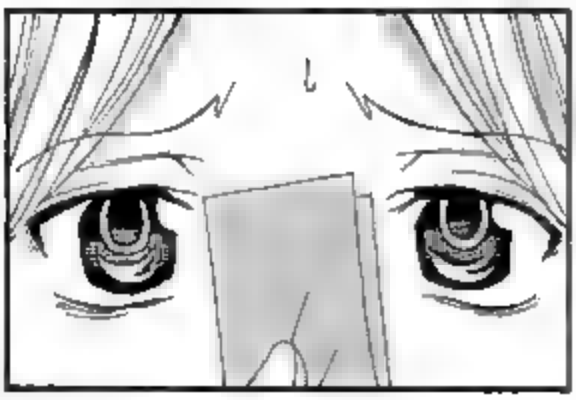
But...

Isn't it really bad to save the world just because I want...
...to start over with the girlfriend who dumped me?

I WONDER.

I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING WORTH ACCOMPLISHING.
FULFILLING YOUR WISH...


...IT IS IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.

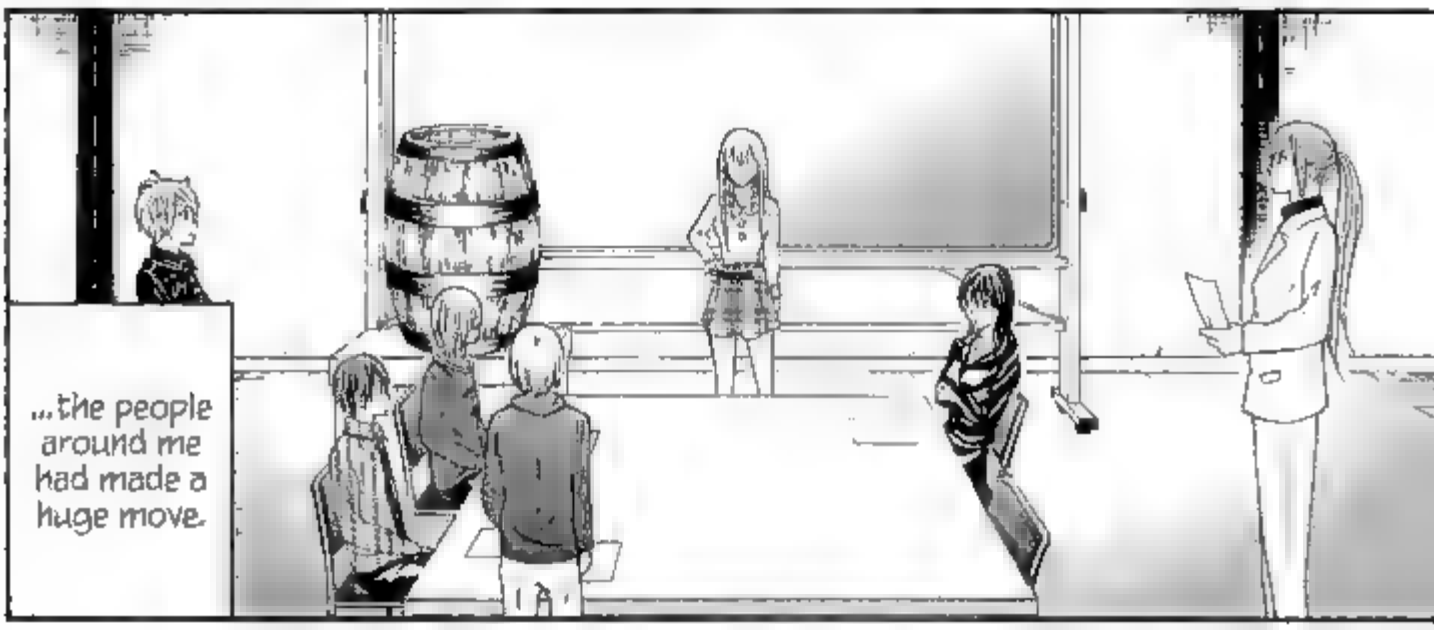


IT MIGHT BE YOUR FAREWELL LETTER
WELL, WORST CASE SCENARIO:

That's not funny at all!
Fraulein-san...

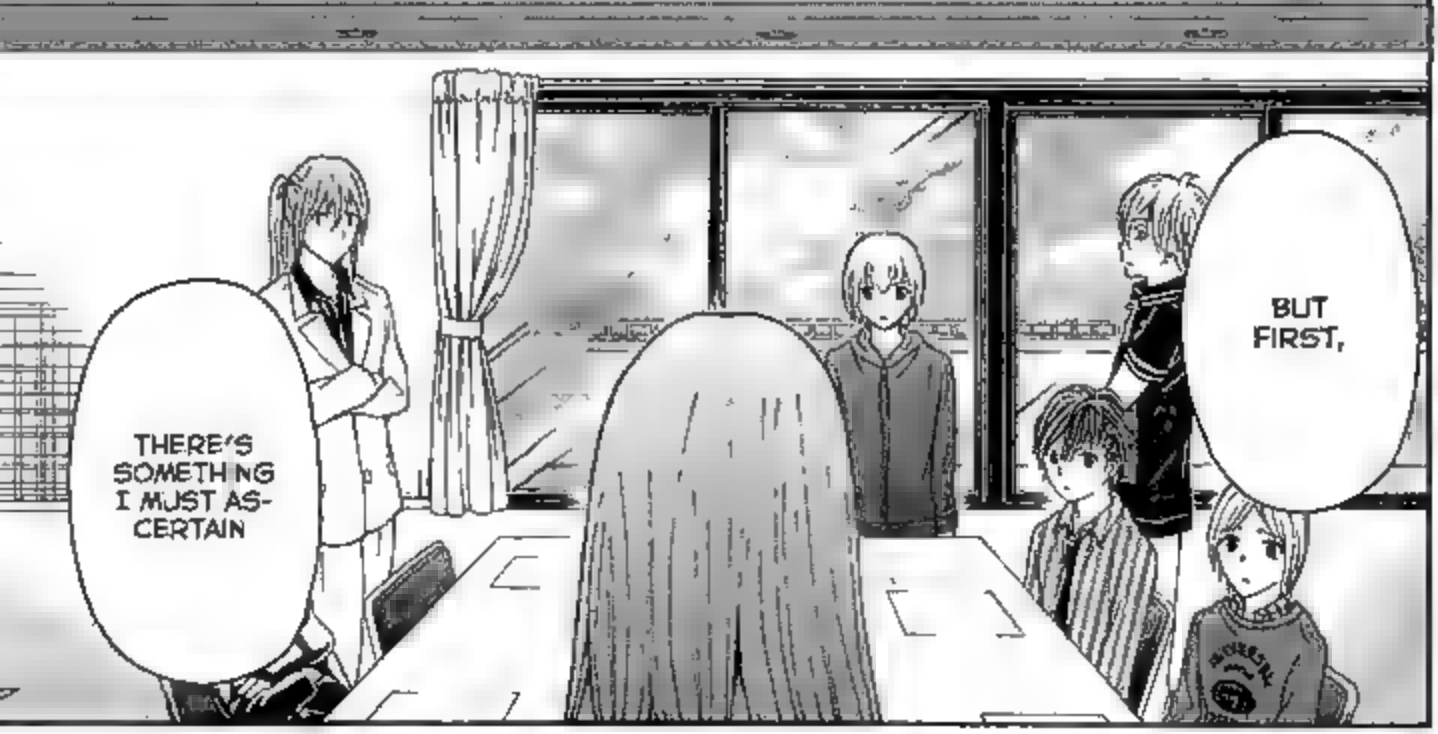
IF YOU GET SO CREST-FALLEN, IT'S HARD FOR US TO USE YOU.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T DO IT BY PHONE, YOU CAN WRITE HER A LETTER.
CONTACT YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND AND GET PSYCHED UP.

While I was dawdling like that...


...the people around me had made a huge move.

IF THE TWO FRUITS ABSORB ONE ANOTHER AND BECOME A NEW ONE,
THE TREE OF EXODUS WILL BE RESURRECTED.

That day, Hakaze-san said something unbelievable.


THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST ASCERTAIN
BUT FIRST,

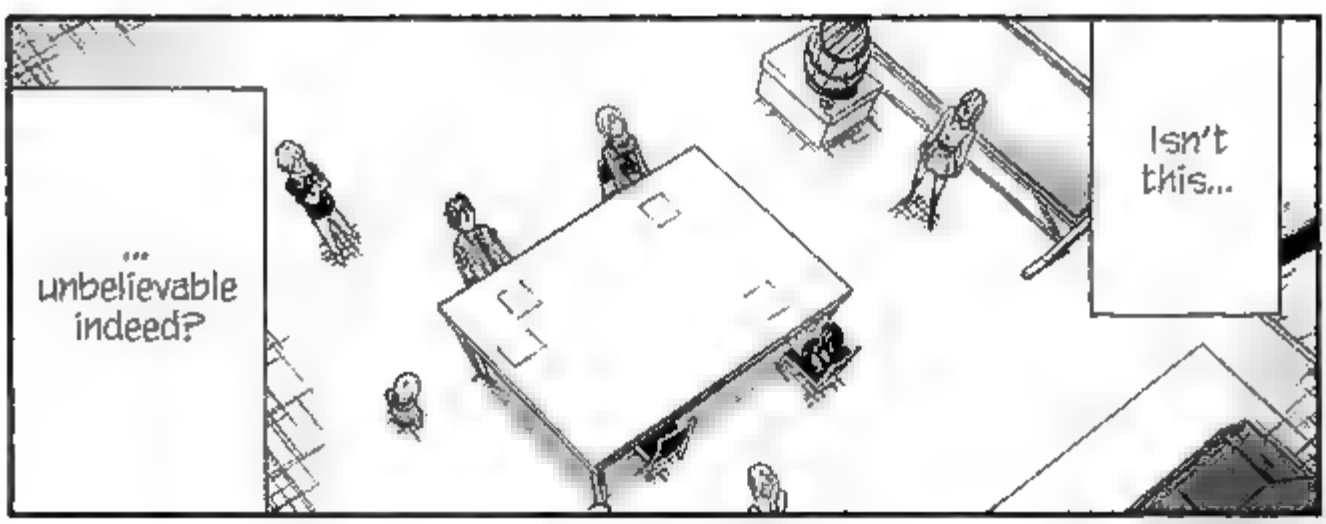
ALTERNATIVELY, I THINK THAT THE CURRENT CHAOS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TRUTH BEHIND THE TWO GREAT TREES.
EVEN IF IT DOESN'T, THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE MUST FIND OUT.

WHO IN THE WORLD ...
... KILLED FUWA AIKA?

TO THE TIME BEFORE FUWA AIKA WAS KILLED.
...AM THINKING OF RETURNING TO THE PAST WITH THE HELP OF THIS DOLL AND BARREL.
I...
SO...

To the time before she was killed?!
Return to the past?!

...WHO COMMIT-TED THE MURDER!
AND I WILL SEE FOR MYSELF ...


... unbelievable indeed?
Isn't this...

絶園のテンペスト

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

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ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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Zetsuen no Tempest ch 33

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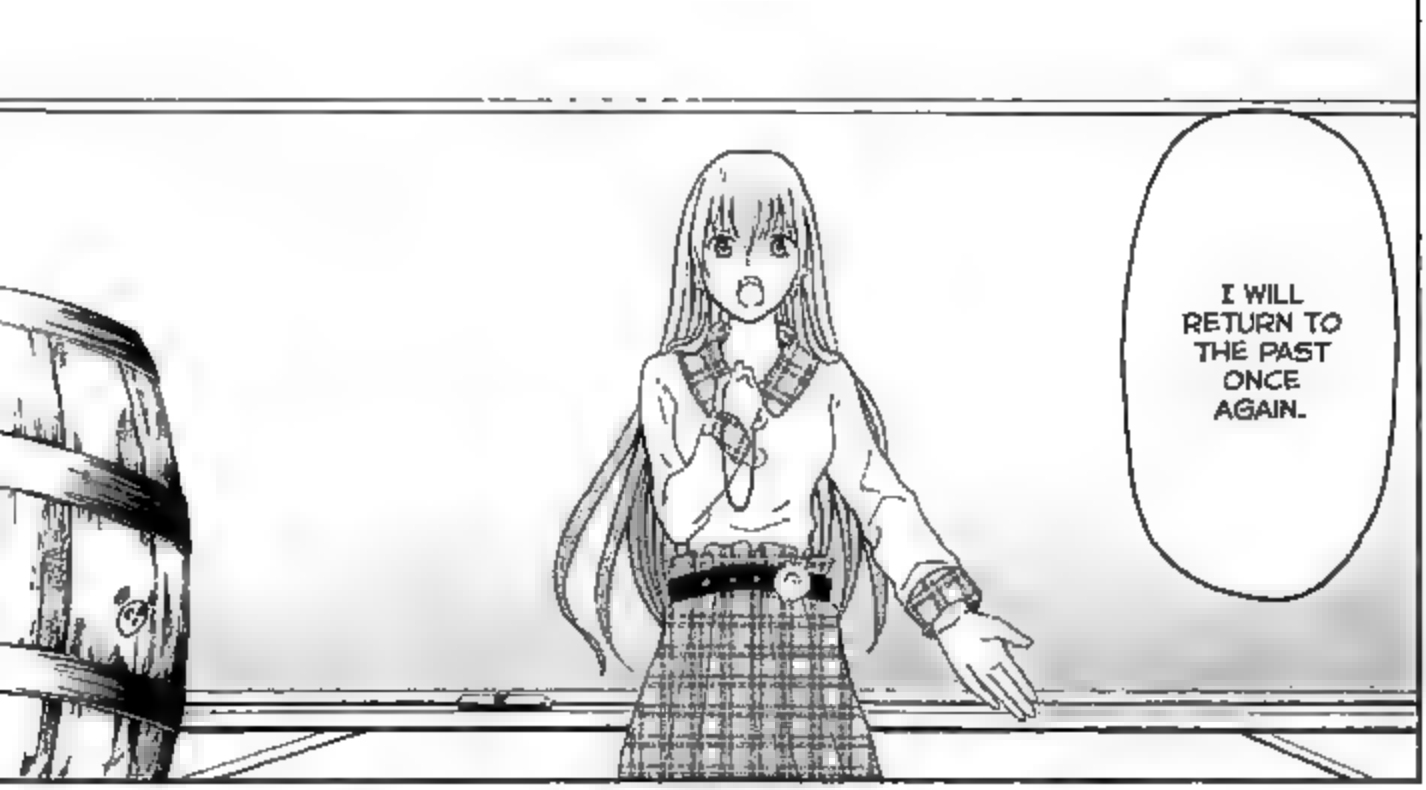
絶園のテンペスト

CHAPTER 34: WHODUNNIT

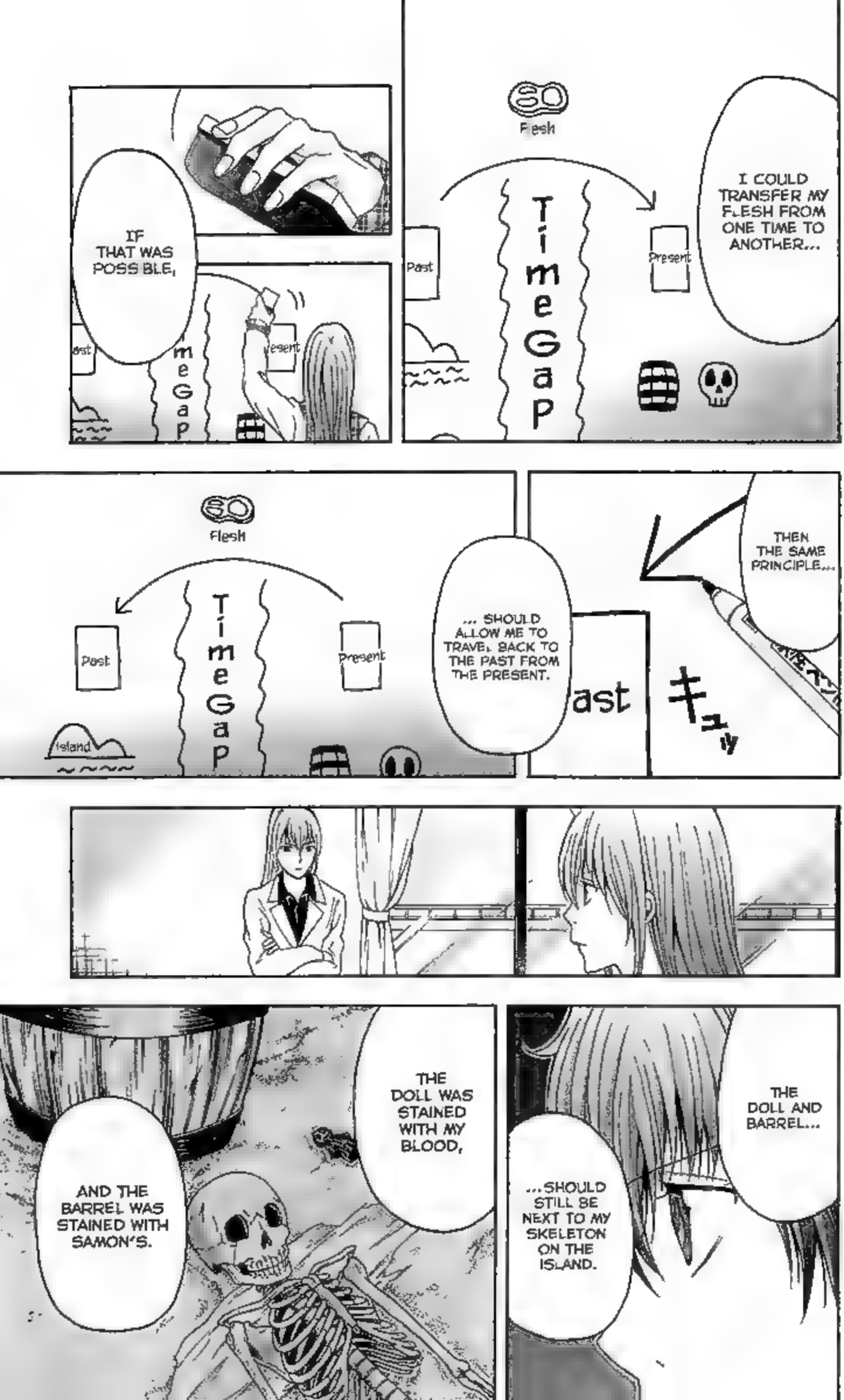
THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

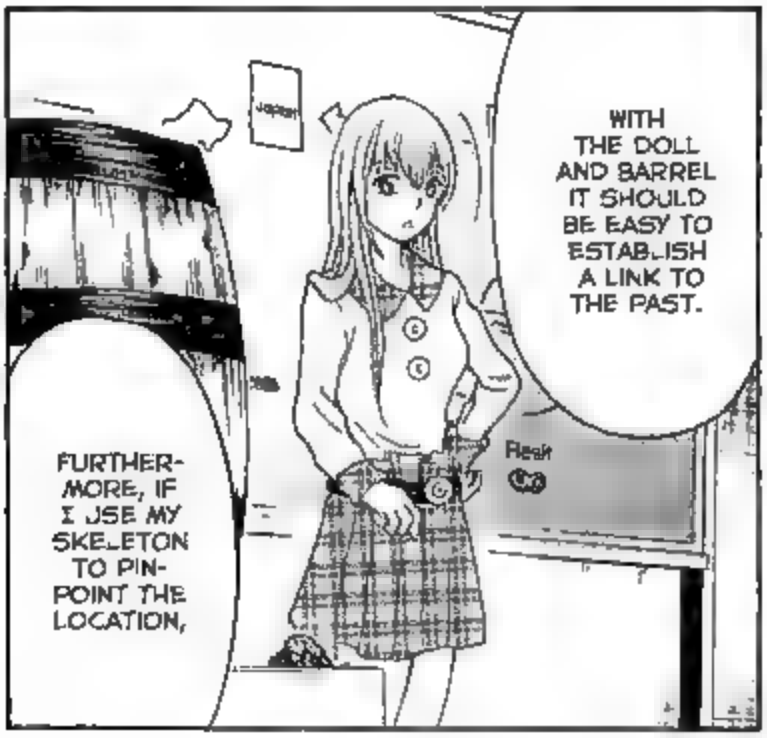

I WILL RETURN TO THE PAST ONCE AGAIN.

TO BECOME A WITNESS TO FUWA AIKA'S MURDER.

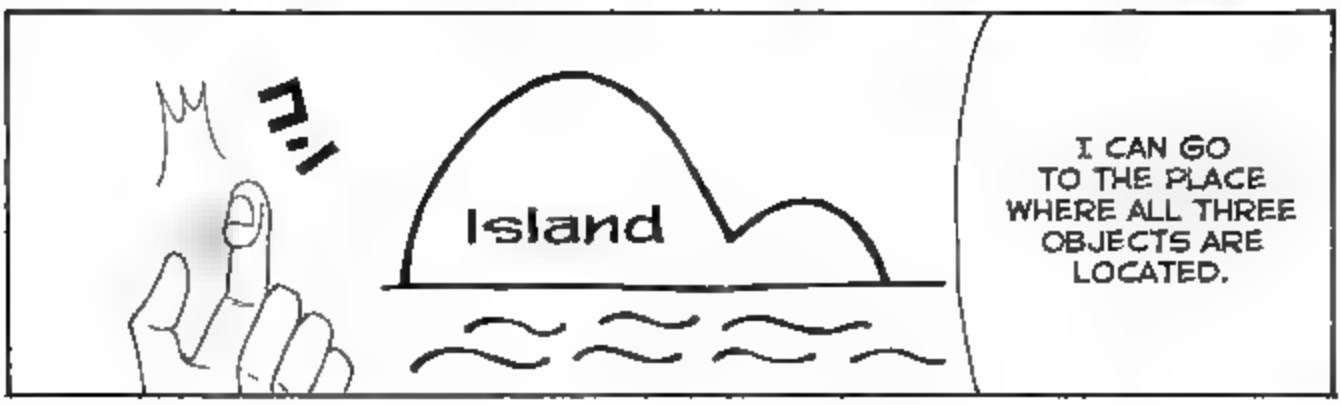
A RECKLESS MOVE.
THIS IS NOT...

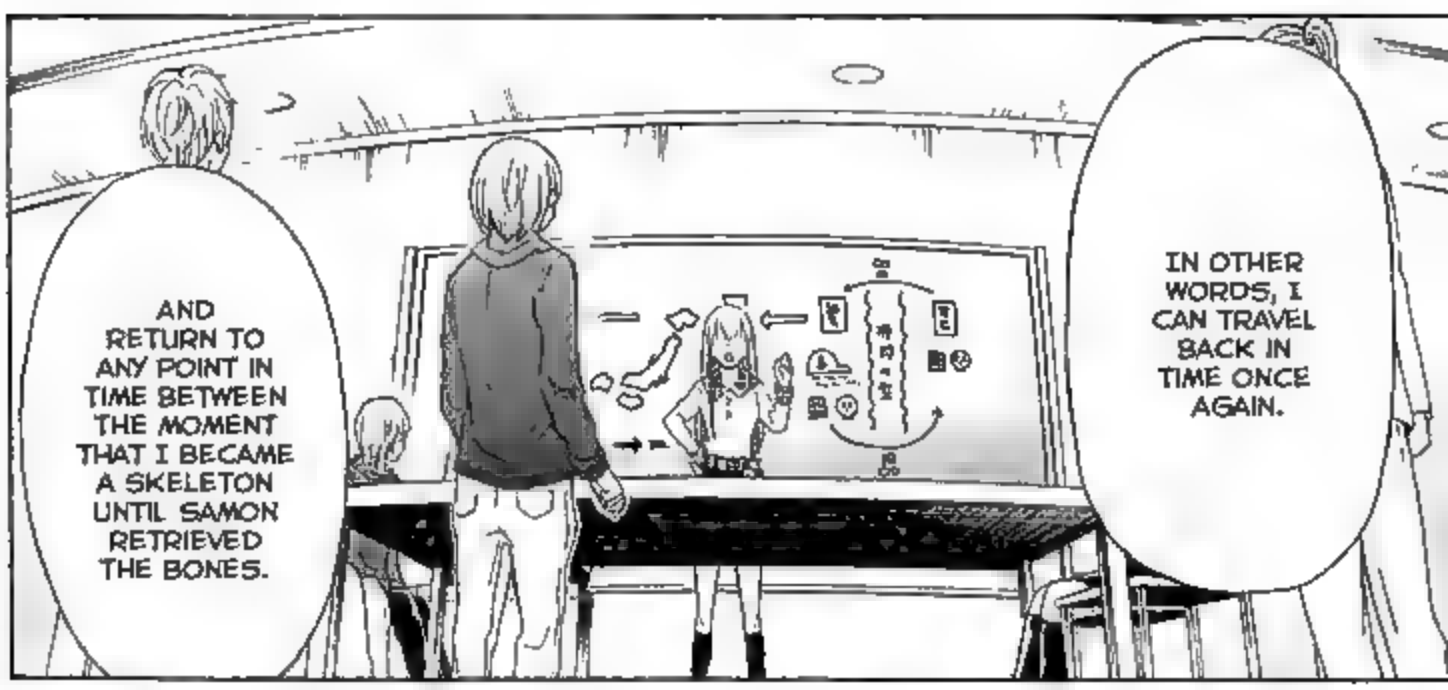
I'VE DONE IT BEFORE.
Present
...TO THE PRESENT.
Past
FROM THE ISLAND IN THE PAST...
Island
WITH MY SKELETON AS THE CORE.
Past
Time gap
Present
I TRAVELLED THROUGH TIME AND RETURNED HERE WITH MY MAGIC.


IF THAT WAS POSSIBLE,
Flesh
Past
Present
TimeGap
I COULD TRANSFER MY FLESH FROM ONE TIME TO ANOTHER...
Flesh
Past
Present
TimeGap
Island
... SHOULD ALLOW ME TO TRAVEL BACK TO THE PAST FROM THE PRESENT.
THEN THE SAME PRINCIPLE...
AND THE BARREL WAS STAINED WITH SAMON'S.
THE DOLL WAS STAINED WITH MY BLOOD,
...SHOULD STILL BE NEXT TO MY SKELETON ON THE ISLAND.
THE DOLL AND BARREL...

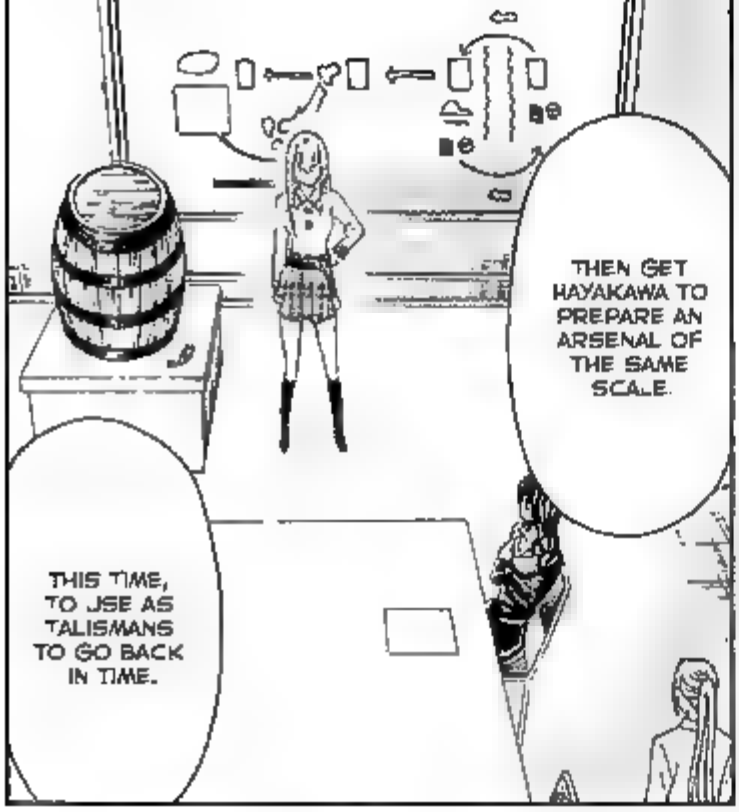

WITH THE DOLL AND BARREL IT SHOULD BE EASY TO ESTABLISH A LINK TO THE PAST.
FURTHER-MORE, IF I USE MY SKELETON TO PIN-POINT THE LOCATION,

YES...
I STAINED MINE ON SOME OF THE WOOD TO USE IT AS A COMMUNICATION DEVICE, JUST IN CASE.


Island
I CAN GO TO THE PLACE WHERE ALL THREE OBJECTS ARE LOCATED.


AND RETURN TO ANY POINT IN TIME BETWEEN THE MOMENT THAT I BECAME A SKELETON UNTIL SAMON RETRIEVED THE BONES.
IN OTHER WORDS, I CAN TRAVEL BACK IN TIME ONCE AGAIN.

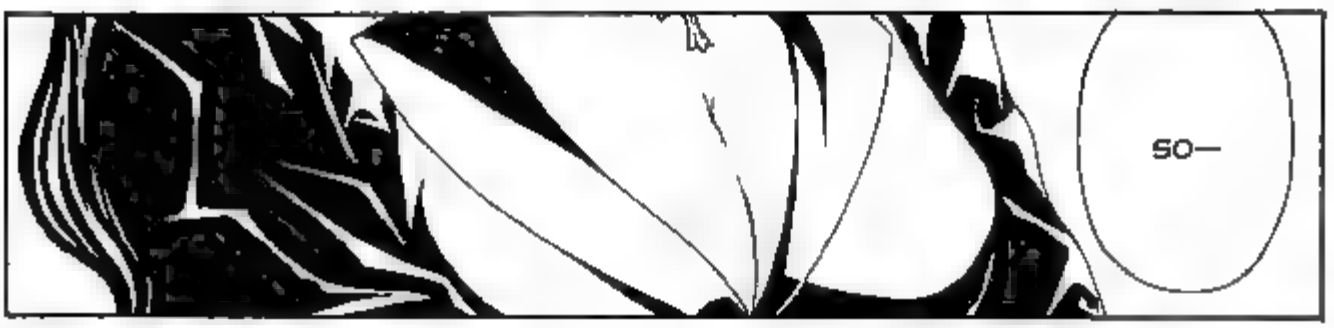
LAST TIME, I USED ONE OF THE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES...
...THAT ARE INSTALLED ON JET FIGHTERS.
...TALISMANS TO ACTIVATE THAT MAGIC.
I'LL NEED...
SO I CAN TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.
TimeGap
WE ALSO HAVE TO MAKE VARIOUS PREPARATIONS.
IN CASE YOU NEEDED TO SUMMON ME BACK TO THE PRESENT?
WHAT WERE THE TALISMANS YOU HID ON THE ISLAND,
BY THE WAY, SAMON...
...IF YOU USED ALL OF THEM AS TALISMANS.
I CALCULATED THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME. .
...AND THE LAUNCHER ON THE ISLAND.
I HID THREE SETS OF MAN-PORTABLE AIR MISSILES...


THIS TIME, TO USE AS TALISMANS TO GO BACK IN TIME.
THEN GET HAYAKAWA TO PREPARE AN ARSENAL OF THE SAME SCALE.

YOU'RE SMART. SO IF YOU SAY THAT THOSE TALISMANS ARE SUFFICIENT, THEN THEY ARE.
I SEE.

I'LL PREPARE MISSILES, TANKS, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT.

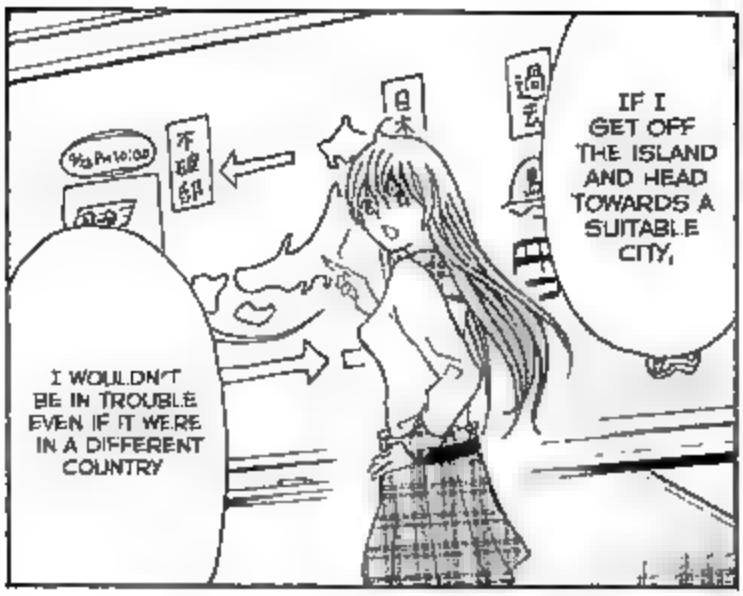
CAN I COUNT ON YOU FOR THAT?
FRAULE.N,


SO—

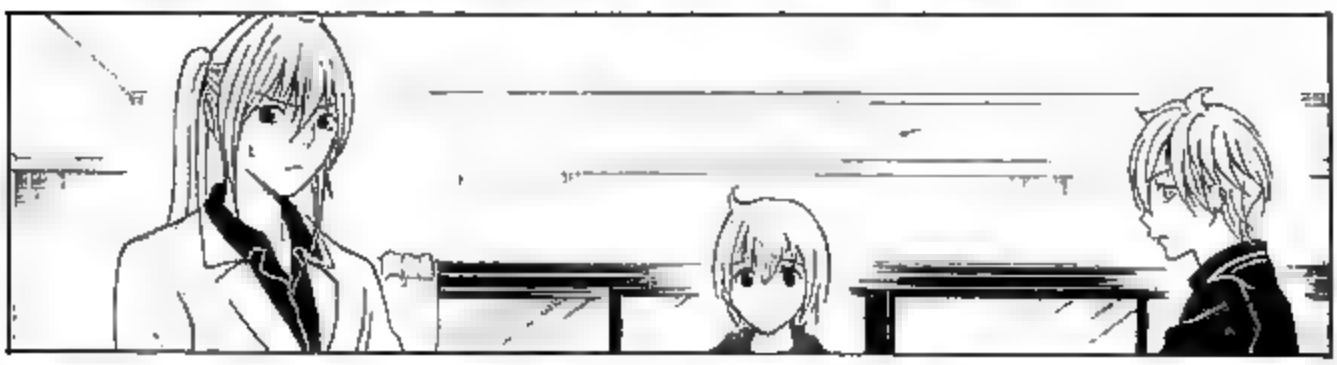
?...

WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU GO BACK IN TIME?

I WILL OBTAIN THE EMERGENCY TALISMANS SAMON HID.
AND USE THEM TO GET OFF THE ISLAND.
Past
Island
Squeak
IF I HAVE ENOUGH TALISMANS, I CAN MOVE FASTER THAN A BOAT AT SEA OR FLY FASTER THAN BIRDS.
I CAN EASILY CROSS THE SEA, EVEN FROM A REMOTE ISLAND
THEN...
I WILL...
Japan
...HEAD STRAIGHT TO JAPAN.
Squeak
5D
Flesh
Past
Time Gap
Present
Japan


IF I GET OFF THE ISLAND AND HEAD TOWARDS A SUITABLE CITY,
I WOULDN'T BE IN TROUBLE EVEN IF IT WERE IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY

AS SOON AS I AM NEAR PRODUCTS OF MODERN CIVILIZATION,
I CAN USE MAGIC TO PROCURE CLOTHES OR FUNDING.



TELL ME THE LOCATIONS OF THE ISLAND AND THE TALISMANS.
IF I KNOW THOSE, I CAN ESTIMATE MY ROUTE TO JAPAN AND ITS DURATION.

SAMON,

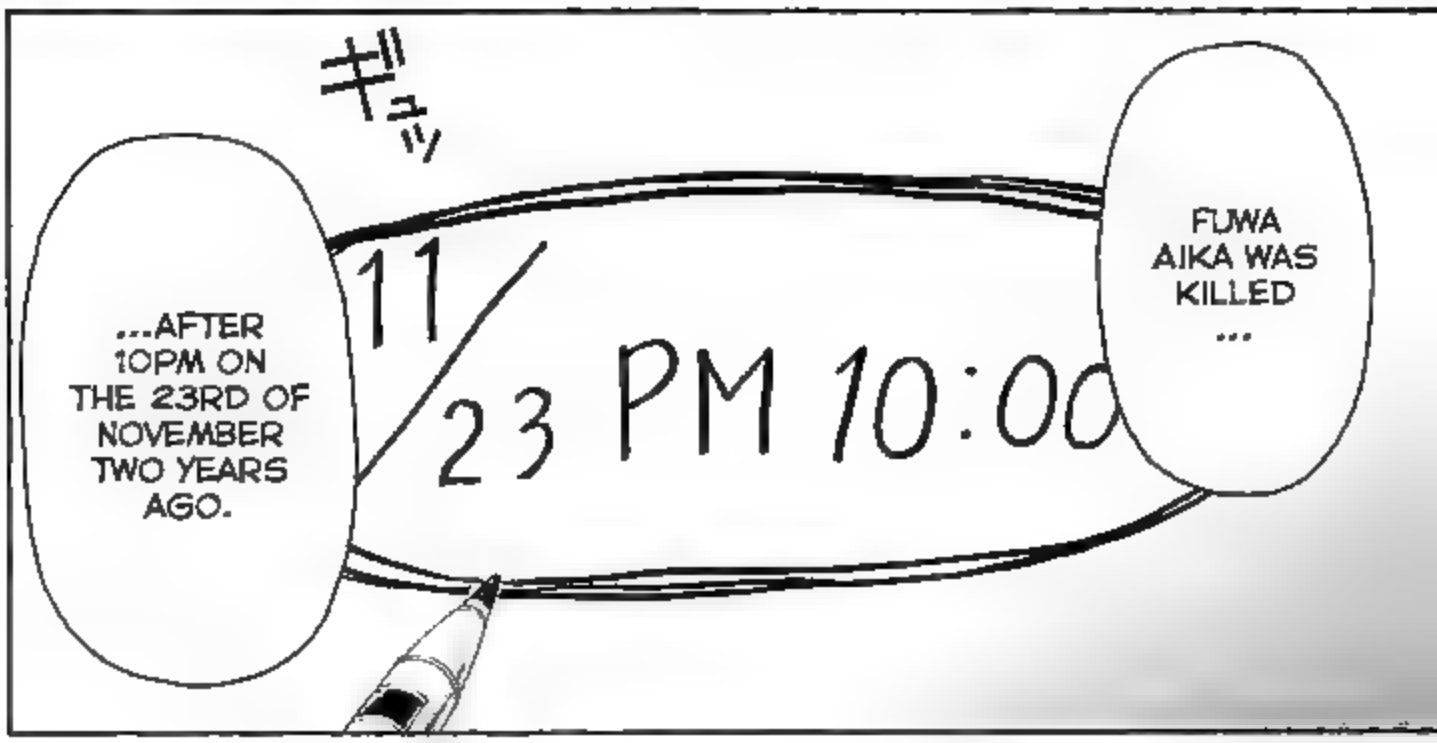
DO YOU THINK THAT THIS JOURNEY WILL GO WELL?
NOW THAT WE HAVE COME SO FAR, I HAVE NO REASON TO HIDE THEM FROM YOU.

THE THOUGHT OF FAILURE NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND.
I BELIEVE IT WILL GO SMOOTHLY.

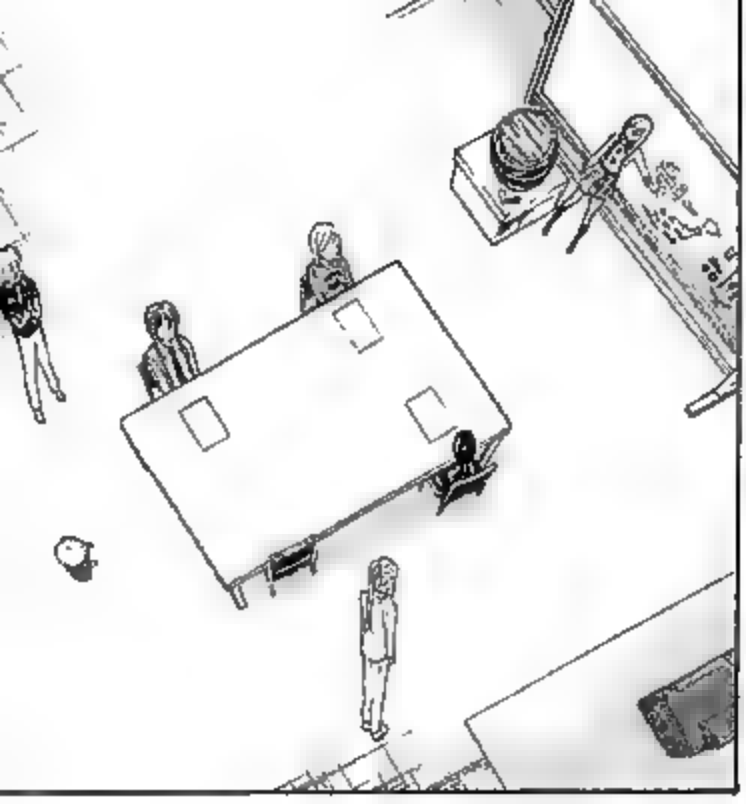
キュ――
WHEN I REACH JAPAN,
THEN ---

... THE CRIME SCENE OF FUWA AIKA'S MURDER.
Fuwa residence
キュッ
I WILL HEAD TOWARDS THE FUWA RESIDENCE ...

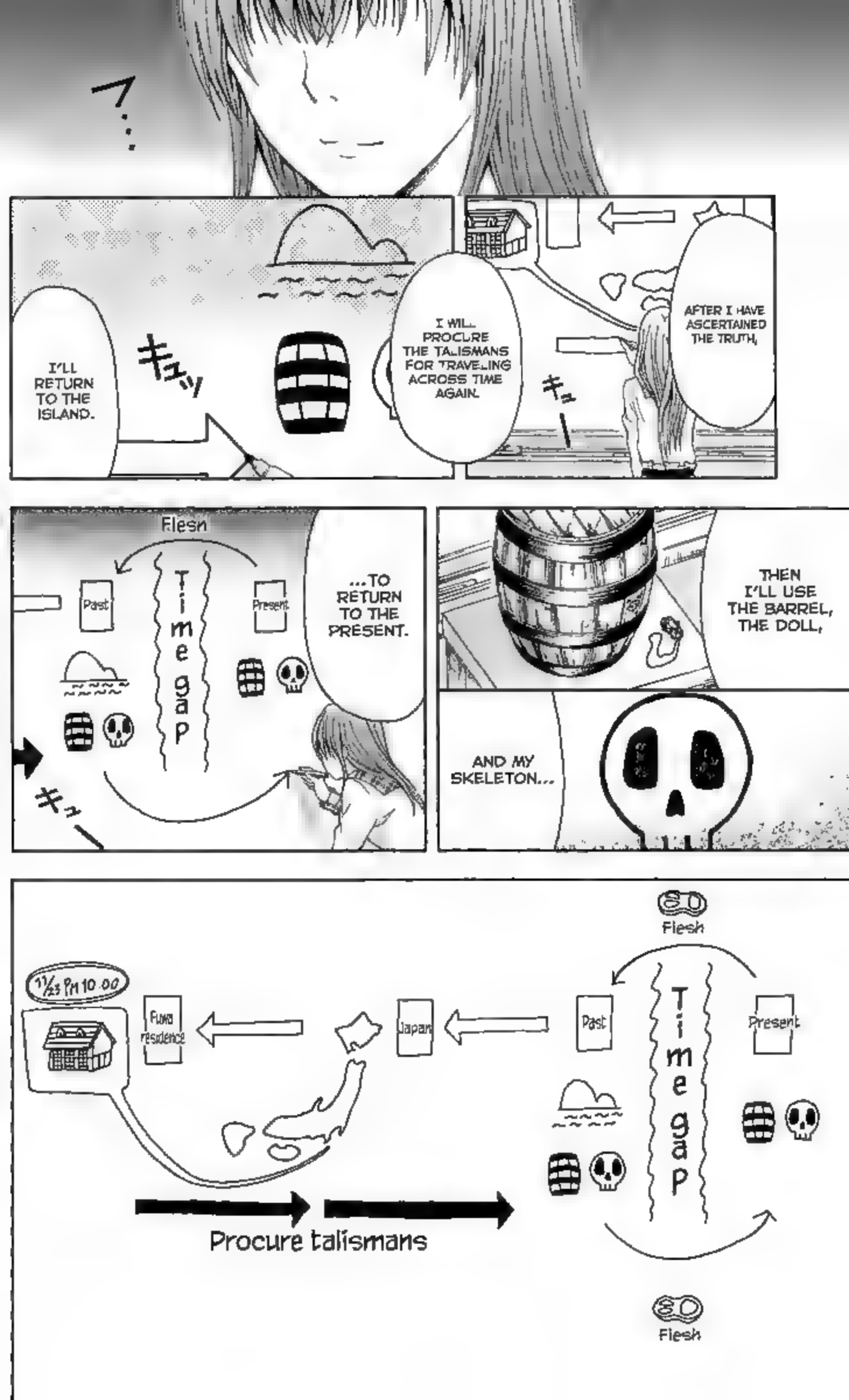
I WILL SURVEIL THE RES DENCE AROUND THE TIME OF THE MURDER...
...AND BECOME A WITNESS TO THAT MURDER.
Fuwa residence

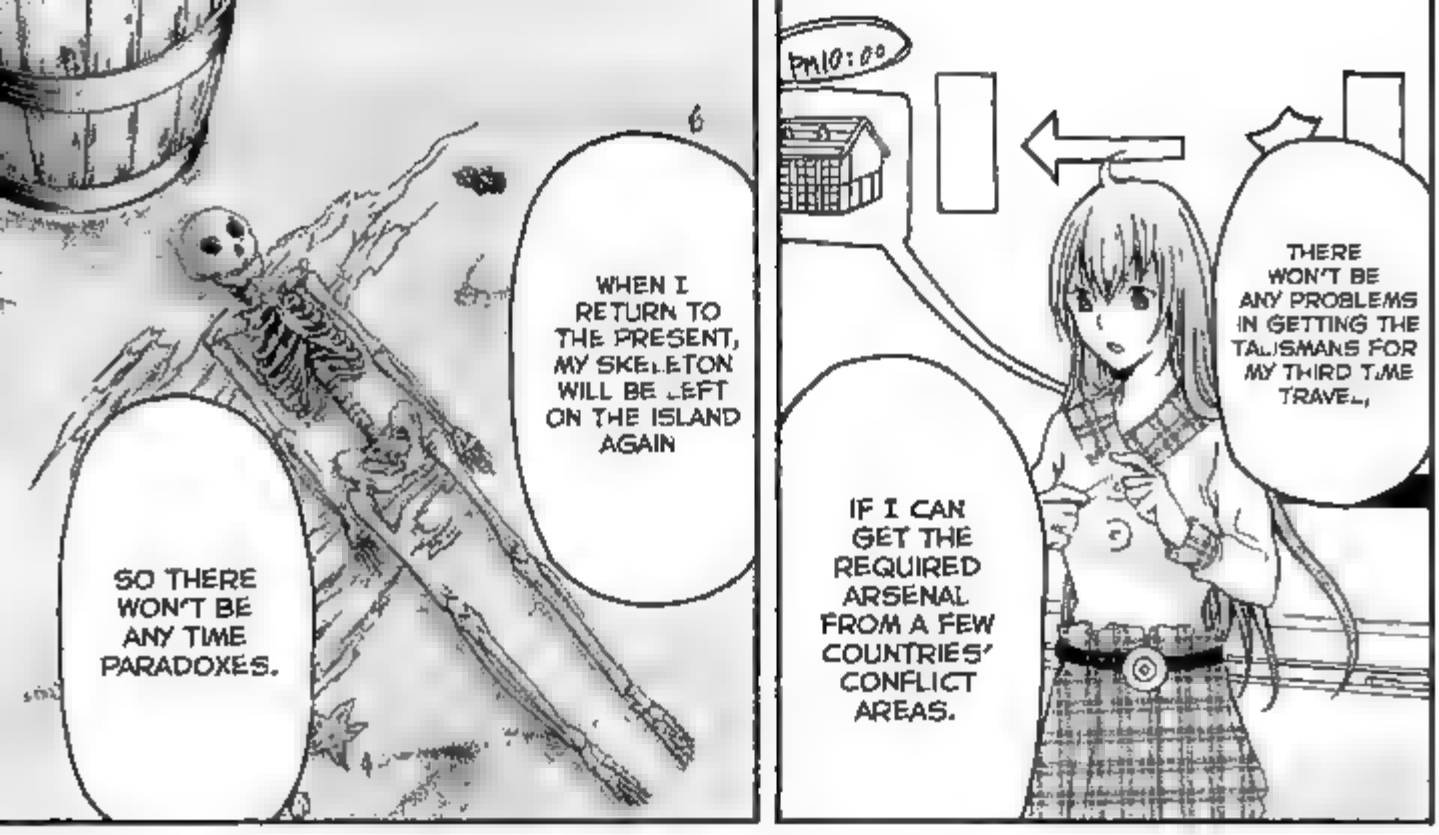

FUWA AIKA WAS KILLED ...
11/23 PM 10:00
...AFTER 10PM ON THE 23RD OF NOVEMBER TWO YEARS AGO.

IF I TRAVEL BACK TO THE PAST ...
11/23 PM 10:00
...AND REACH THE FUWA RESIDENCE BEFORE THAT TIME,

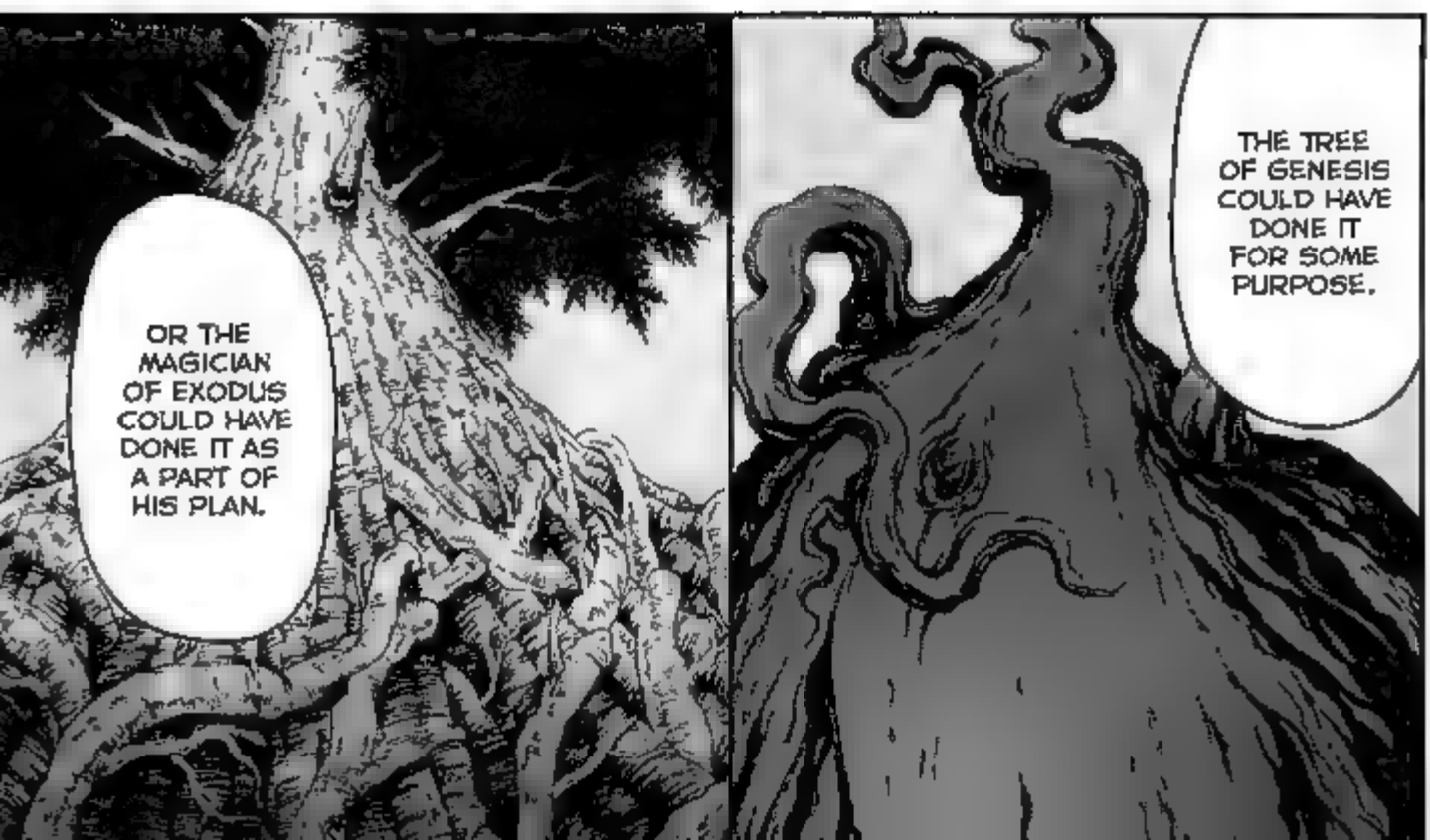


I WILL SEE FOR MYSELF ...
...WHO KILLED HER, AND HOW.

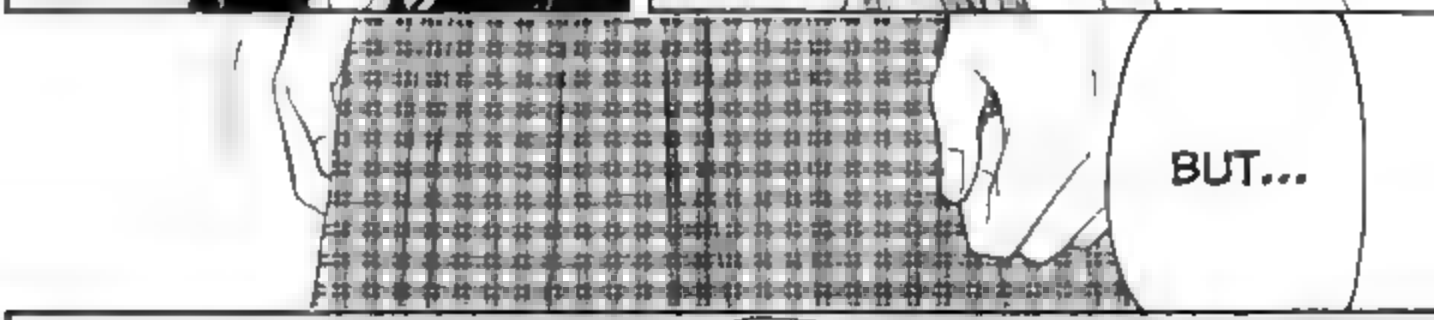

フ…
I'LL RETURN TO THE ISLAND.
キュッッ
I WILL PROCURE THE TALISMANS FOR TRAVELING ACROSS TIME AGAIN.
キュー
AFTER I HAVE ASCERTAINED THE TRUTH,
Flesh
Past
Time gap
Present
…TO RETURN TO THE PRESENT.
キュー
THEN I'LL USE THE BARREL, THE DOLL,
AND MY SKELETON…
60
Flesh
11/25 PM 10:00
Fuwa residence
Japan
Past
Time gap
Present
Procure talismans
60
Flesh


PM10:00
THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS IN GETTING THE TALISMANS FOR MY THIRD TIME TRAVEL.
IF I CAN GET THE REQUIRED ARSENAL FROM A FEW COUNTRIES' CONFLICT AREAS.
WHEN I RETURN TO THE PRESENT, MY SKELETON WILL BE LEFT ON THE ISLAND AGAIN
SO THERE WON'T BE ANY TIME PARADOXES.

MAHIRO AND YOSHINO...
...DO NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE MURDERER.
ヤラレ...


THE TREE OF GENESIS COULD HAVE DONE IT FOR SOME PURPOSE.
OR THE MAGICIAN OF EXODUS COULD HAVE DONE IT AS A PART OF HIS PLAN.

CONSIDERING THAT THE TREE OF GENESIS CAN MAKE USE OF A PASSING BURGLAR'S CRIME,
IT COULD HAVE TAMPERED WITH THE SITUATION.


BUT...

NO MATTER WHAT THE TRUTH IS, I WILL TELL YOU.
THE WHOLE TRUTH, WITHOUT LEAVING ANYTHING OUT.

I WILL FULFILL MY PROMISE.

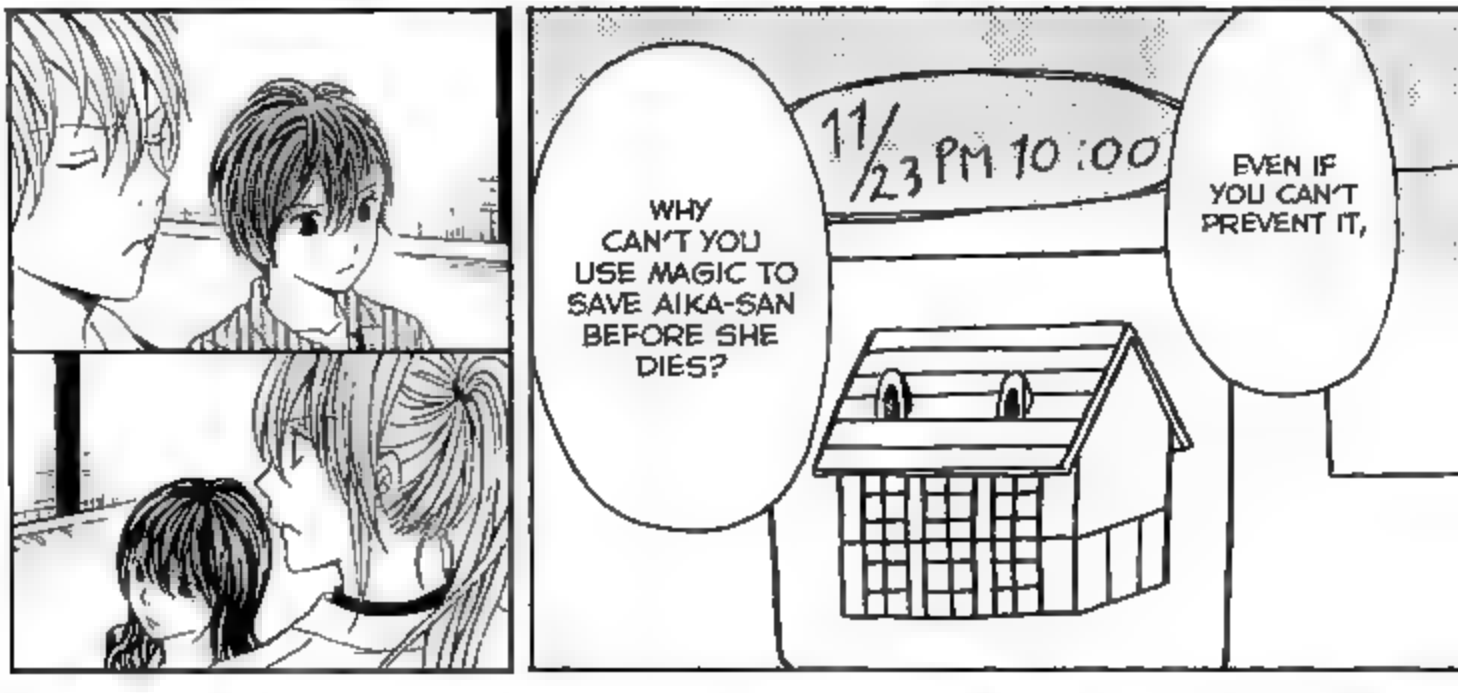
I'VE TOLD YOU:
THE THOUGHT OF FAILURE NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND.

WILL IT BE THAT EASY TO TRAVEL ...
...TO THE TIME BEFORE AIKA'S MURDER?

I STILL DON'T THINK THAT...
...YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE TIME BEFORE SHE WAS KILLED.

NOW...
ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

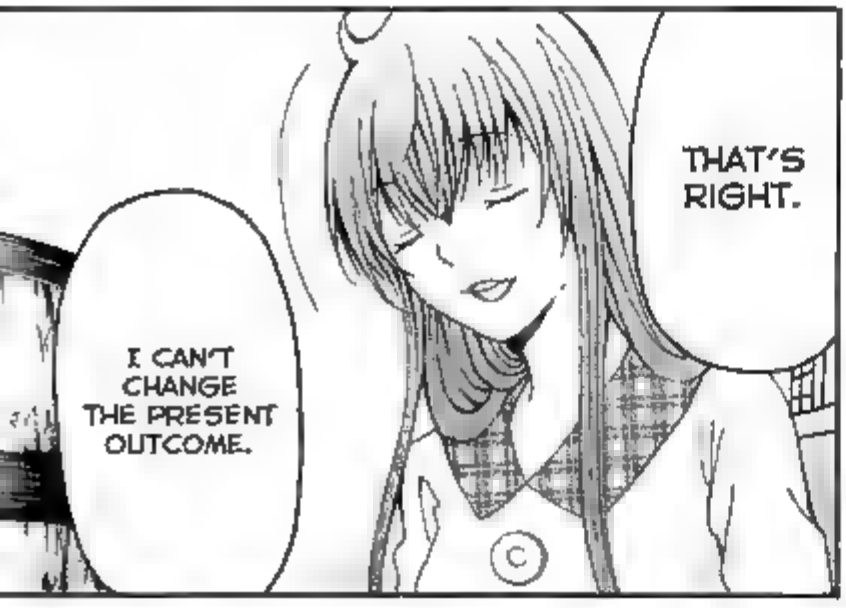
HAKAZE-CHAN, IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE PRESENT AT THE MURDER SCENE,
WHY CAN'T YOU PREVENT THE MURDER?


11/23 PM 10:00
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PREVENT IT,
WHY CAN'T YOU USE MAGIC TO SAVE AIKA-SAN BEFORE SHE DIES?

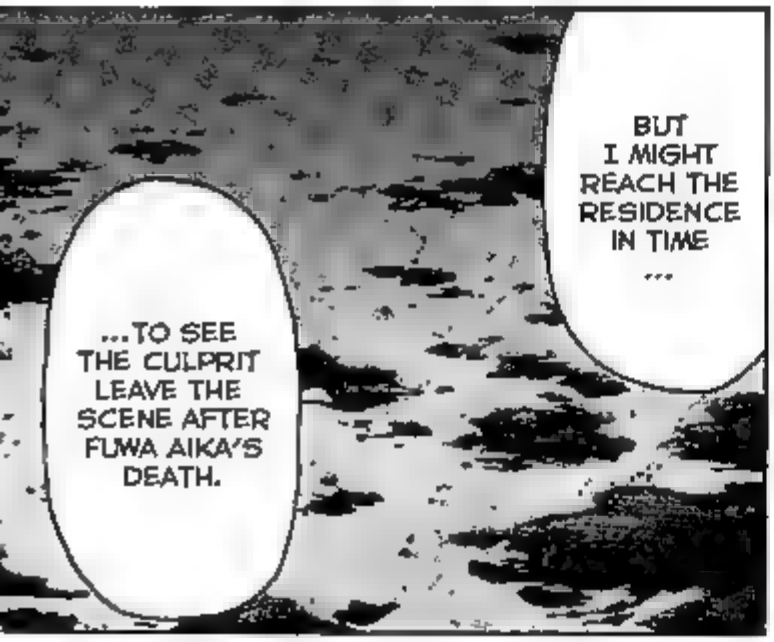
THE FACT THAT AIKA-SAN IS DEAD IN THE PRESENT ...

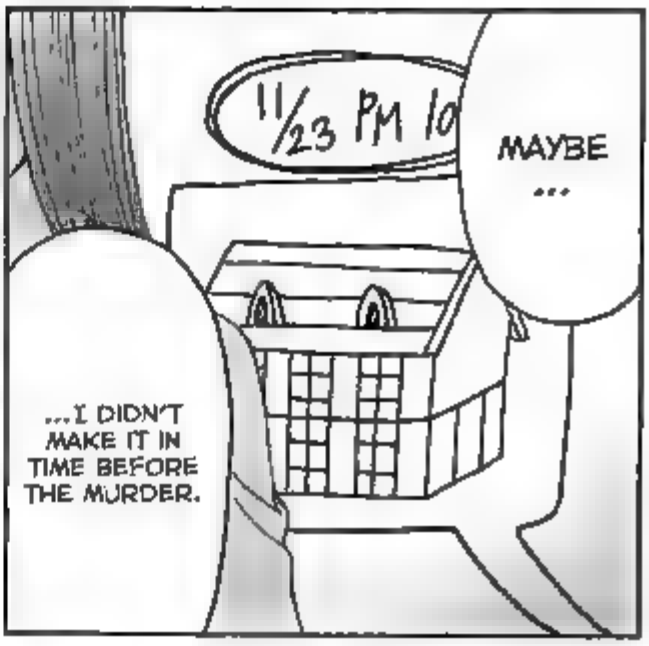
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN'T RETURN TO THE PAST YOU WISH FOR.
ISN'T THAT SO?

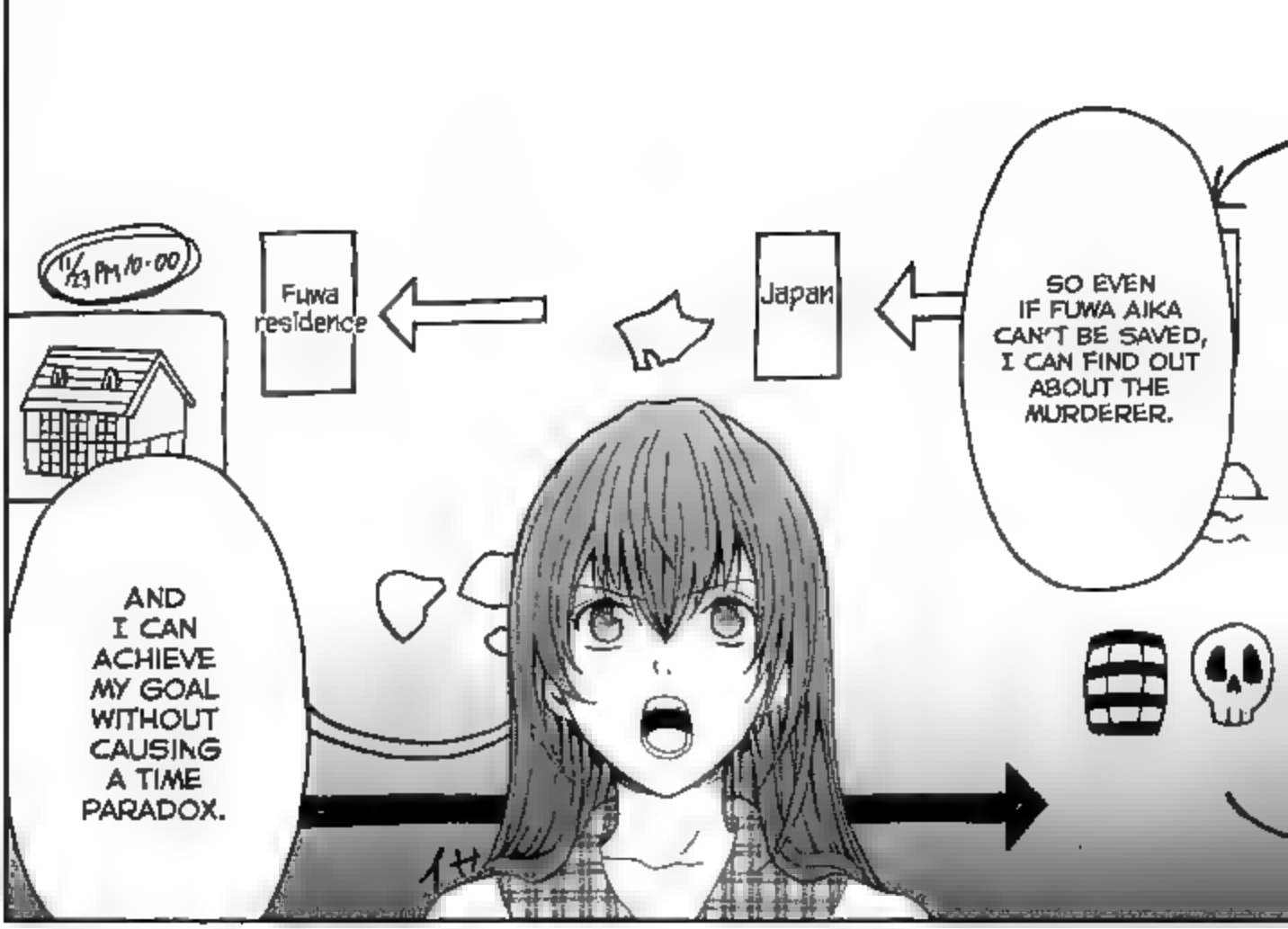
... TELLS US THAT YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME.


THAT'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T CHANGE THE PRESENT OUTCOME.

?


BUT I MIGHT REACH THE RESIDENCE IN TIME ...
...TO SEE THE CULPRIT LEAVE THE SCENE AFTER FUWA AIKA'S DEATH.


11/23 PM 10
MAYBE ...
...I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME BEFORE THE MURDER.


11/23 PM 10:00
Fuwa residence
Japan
SO EVEN IF FUWA AIKA CAN'T BE SAVED, I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THE MURDERER.
AND I CAN ACHIEVE MY GOAL WITHOUT CAUSING A TIME PARADOX.

.....
IF I REALLY WISH TO DO SOMETHING,
THEN IT IS MEANINGFUL TO DO IT.

FUWA AIKA'S DEATH REMAINS AN UNCHANGED REALITY.
ANYWAY,
NO MATTER WHAT I DO,

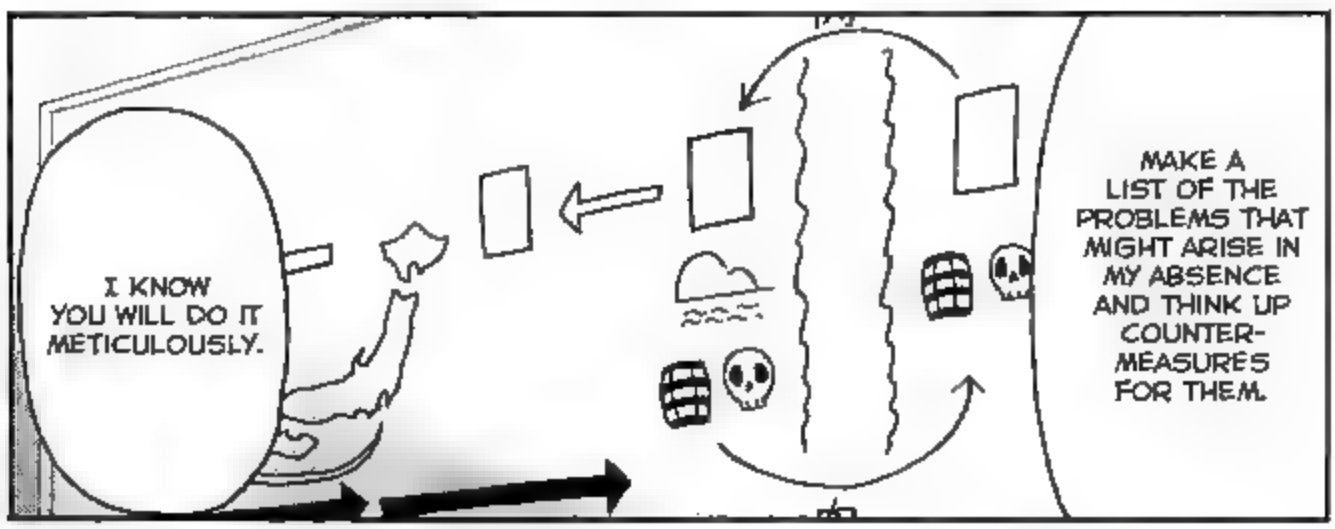
...TO TAKE THE CHANCE THAT MIGHT BRING YOU THE TRUTH.
THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS WHETHER OR NOT YOU CHOOSE ...
IF YOU OPPOSE THE PLAN, WE WILL CANCEL IT.
WELL, MAHIRO?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED TO FIND YOUR SISTER'S MURDERER TO BEGIN WITH.
WHY AREN'T YOU ASKING YOSHINO?
AND HE AGREED.
I'VE EXPLAINED MY PLAN TO YOSHINO MORE THAN A MONTH AGO.

AND SHE STILL GOT HER WAY IN THE END?
WELL.
I DID POINT OUT THE VARIOUS DANGERS OF IT...
BESIDES,
SO NOT EVEN THE MAN YOU LOVE CAN MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
THERE ARE IDEAS I WILL NOT GIVE UP ON.
THIS IS A PROMISE I MADE WITH YOU. I AM CONFIDENT THAT I WILL FULFILL IT.
SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO YIELD.

IF WE ABANDON THIS PLAN,
WE'LL HAVE NO OTHER WAY TO FIND THE CULPRIT.
AS THE ONE CARRYING OUT THE OPERATION, YOU ARE THE ONE IN DANGER
IF YOU WANT TO DO IT, THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO OPPOSE.
BUT
I CAN'T DO SO RIGHT NOW.
AND SO,
I WILL GO BACK IN TIME.
Past
Island
Time

AND WE STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED ON THE COUNTER-MEASURES AFTER I LEAVE FOR THE PAST.
WE STILL NEED TO COMPLETE THE PLAN TO LET THE LAST REMAINING FRUIT OF EXODUS TAKE FLIGHT.

I WILL BE GONE FROM THE PRESENT FOR A WHILE.
SAMON,

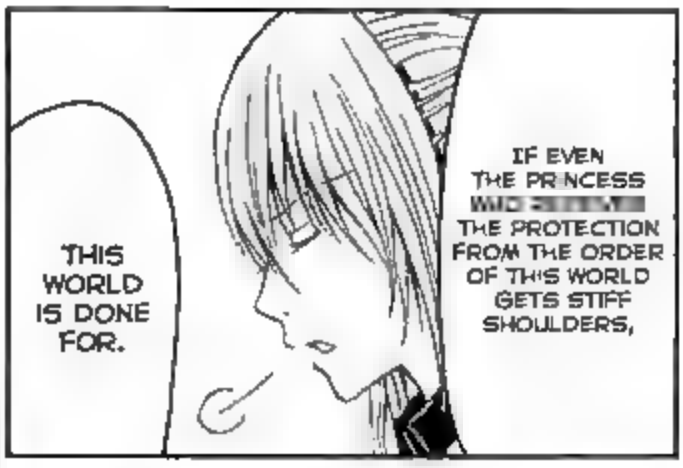

I KNOW YOU WILL DO IT METICULOUSLY.
MAKE A LIST OF THE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN MY ABSENCE AND THINK UP COUNTER-MEASURES FOR THEM.

AND...
FRAULEIN, PLEASE CONTINUE AND CONTACT HAYAKAWA.
I'LL MAKE SURE NOT TO OVERLOOK ANYTHING.
I UNDER-STAND.

...PLEASE CONFIRM THE SCHEDULE OF THE FINAL FRUIT'S FLIGHT AND REPORT TO ME ABOUT IT.
ALL RIGHT. LEAVE IT TO ME.
... WITH THIS,
AND...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NEAR THE END.
S-SO ...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

MAY I BOTHER YOU FOR A MOMENT, PRINCESS?
SURE. I DON'T MIND.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M USING A MASSAGE CHAIR. IT TICKLES.
I NEVER KNEW... ...WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE STIFF SHOULDERS.

SAMON, AT YOUR AGE YOU STILL HAVE LONG HAIR WITHOUT EVEN A S NGLE WHITE STRAND.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT AS WORRIED AS YOU CLAIM.


IF EVEN THE PR NCESS [redacted] THE PROTECTION FROM THE ORDER OF THIS WORLD GETS STIFF SHOULDERS,
THIS WORLD IS DONE FOR.

Yea
Yea

REALLY?!

NO, THAT'S A LIE.

THIS IS A WIG.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT A PERSON LIKE YOU WOULD CRACK A JOKE.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

JOKES ASIDE.
IT'S ABOUT GOING BACK IN TIME.

NOW.
REGARDING YOUR GOING BACK TO THE PAST.

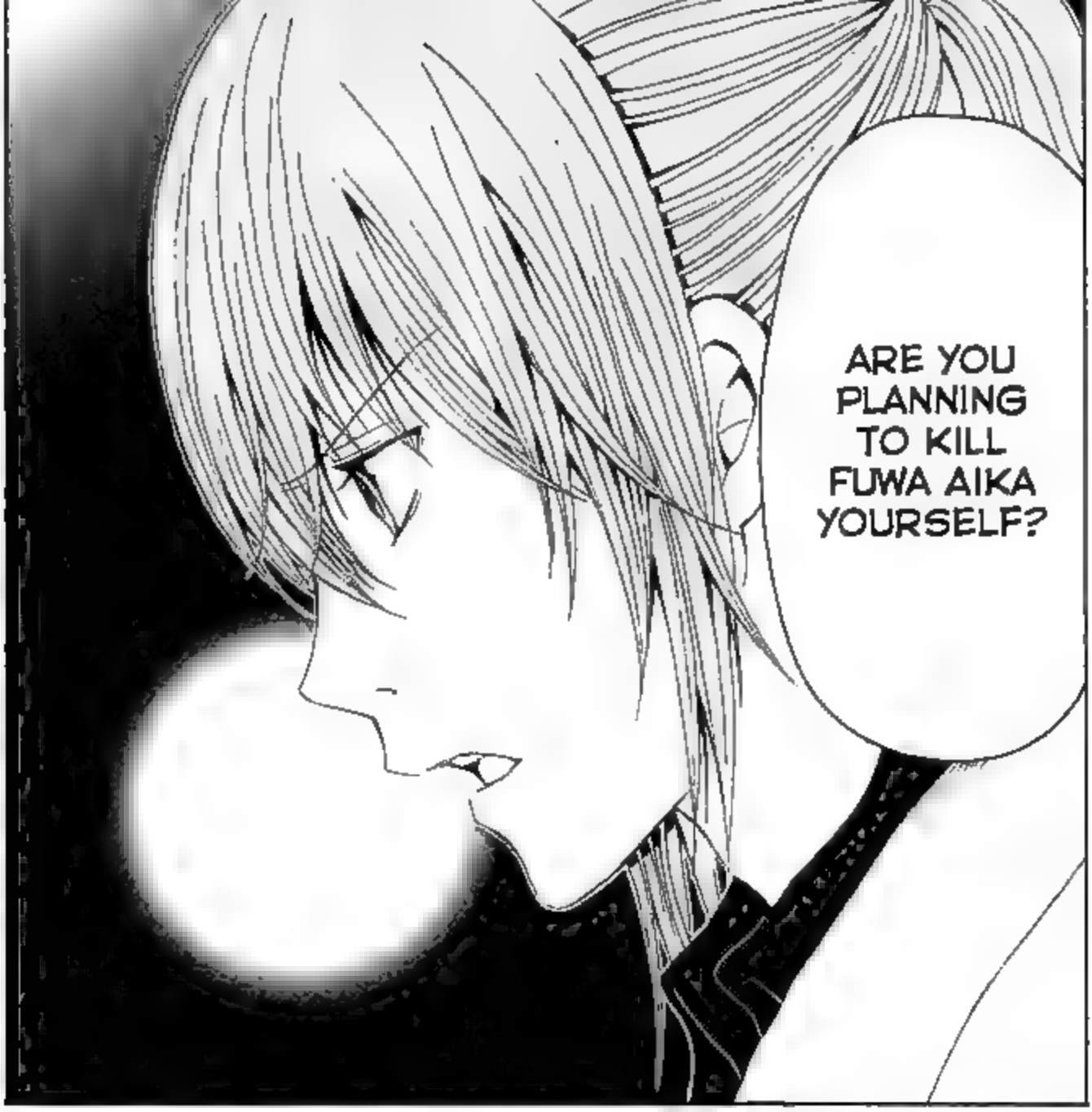
WHEN I WORRY, I START TELLING JOKES.

HAVEN'T I SAID IT JUST NOW?

WHAT IS YOUR TRUE GOAL?

THAT MAY BE YOUR INTENTION, BUT...
... BASED ON THE SITUATION,

IT'S ALL TO FIND FUWA AIKA'S MURDERER.

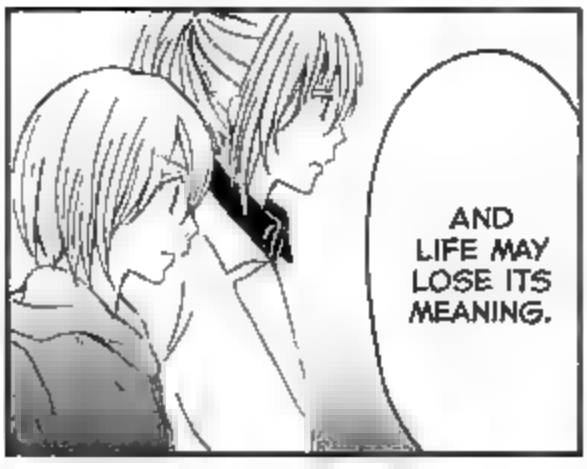

ARE YOU PLANNING TO KILL FUWA AIKA YOURSELF?

I COULDN'T DETECT ANYONE WHEN I USED MAGIC TO INVESTIGATE FUWA AIKA'S MURDERER
THAT WAS SORT OF A PARADOX AND COMPLICATED THE SITUATION.
BEFORE,
BUT IF THE "FUTURE ME", WHO HAS YET TO BECOME A MURDERER AT THE TIME OF THE INVESTIGATION, IS THE CULPRIT,
THEN THE PARADOX IS RESOLVED AND EVERYTHING MAKES SENSE.
IT'S TIME TRAVEL.
OF COURSE THERE WILL BE THAT SORT OF CAUSALITY.
BUT ...
...ISN'T IT A STRANGE CAUSALITY?

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF IT WERE CLEAR THAT I PERFORMED THE DEED PERSONALLY?
IF THE TREE OF GENESIS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH.
I'VE PROMISED TO LET MAHIRO KILL ME,
TO BEGIN WITH,
...THE FACT THAT THE TRUTH IS DISAPPOINT-ING.
WHAT I FEAR MOST IS...
WHAT IF THAT'S THE CASE?
AND THAT DISAPPOINTING MURDERER HAS ALREADY DIED DISAPPOINTINGLY IN THE CHAOS THE WORLD HAS BEEN IN LATELY.
FUWA A KA WAS KILLED BY A DISAPPOINTING PERSON,
FOR A DISAPPOINTING REASON.
WHAT IF TREE OF GENESIS IS MERELY CONCEALING THAT?

FUWA AIKA'S DEATH IS MEANINGLESS AND WORTHLESS. SHE DIED A DISAPPOINTING DEATH.
WHAT WILL THEY THINK IF THEY CAN'T EVEN TAKE REVENGE?

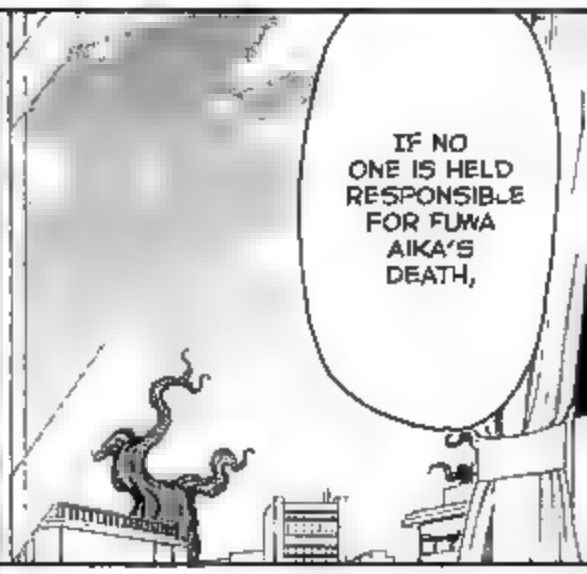
IF THE TRUTH COMES TO LIGHT,
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOSHINO AND MAHIRO?


AND LIFE MAY LOSE ITS MEANING.

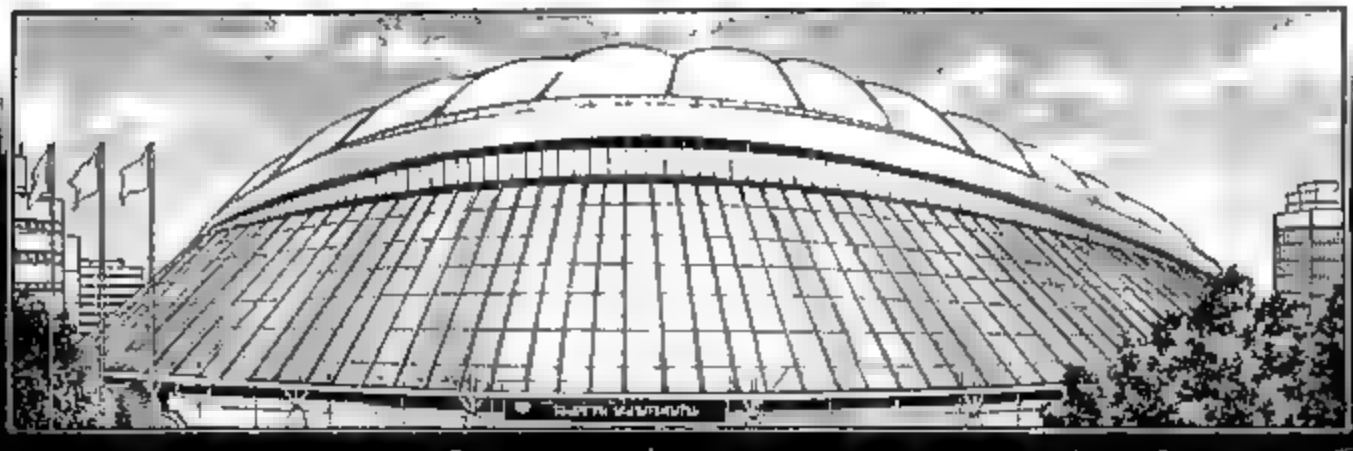
THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO MOVE ON.
IF THAT UNREASON-ABLE TRUTH IS THRUST AT THEM,

TMMM

THOSE TWO WILL BECOME BROKEN.


IF NO ONE IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR FUWA AIKA'S DEATH,

DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT IS ONLY NATURAL...
...THAT I SHOULD SHOULDER THAT RESPONSIBILITY?
HAKAZE-CHAN, ARE YOU SAYING THAT...
... YOU WILL PERSONALLY KILL FUWA AIKA-SAN?
IF IT IS NECESSARY, THEN I WON'T HESITATE.
I WON'T LET IT END WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING.
BUT,
I AM ALSO A WOMAN.
I MIGHT SIMPLY THROW A FIT AND KILL THE REAL FUWA AIKA OUT OF IRRITATION.
はっはっはっ
THE MOTIVE WOULD BE INFATUATION.
SFX: HAHAHA
ブウウウン



YOU LOOK GLOOMY. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

IT'S JUST ...

WHAT?

AH, NO.
I'M NOT AGAINST IT ANYMORE.

ARE YOU STILL OPPOSED TO ME GOING BACK IN TIME?

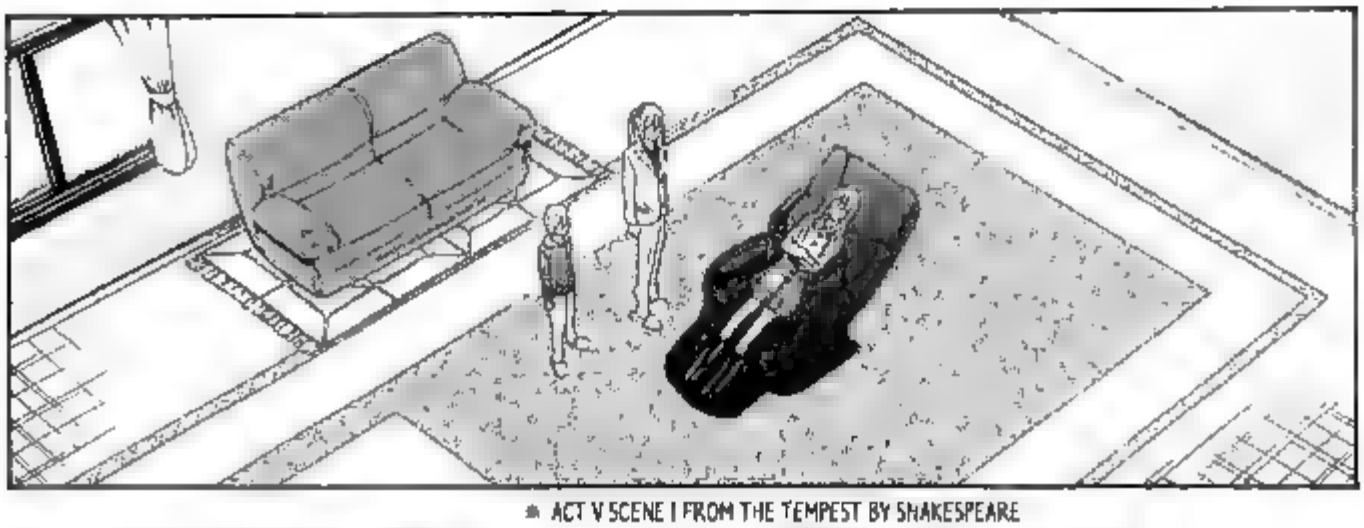
WHEN I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE ALREADY DEAD, WE STILL MANAGED TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE PRESENT, ALIVE.
THEN MAYBE...
IT'S JUST THAT IF YOU SUCCESSFULLY RETURN TO THE RIGHT TIME IN THE PAST,
THEN THERE SHOULD BE A WAY TO SAVE AIKA-CHAN.
HER SITUATION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MINE.
THAT SURPRISED ME.
THAT MAY BE SO.
YES.
BUT THERE HAS TO BE A LOOPHOLE SOMEWHERE ...
MAHIRO IDENTIFIED HER BODY, WHICH CONSISTED OF FLESH AND BLOOD, AND THE CORONER DISSECTED IT
SHE WAS CREMATED AND PUT IN A GRAVE. THERE'S PROBABLY NO WAY TO OVERTURN HER DEATH.

Digressing
MAYBE FUWA AIKA WOULDN'T HAVE TO DIE.
THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HER,
IF YOU REPLACE FUWA AIKA'S CORPSE BY THAT OF A GIRL
HA?...
THAT'S RIGHT.
Digressed proposal
... AS A SUBSTITUTE, WHEN I GO BACK IN TIME.
I CAN'T MAGICALLY CREATE A CORPSE, BUT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A SUITABLE ONE...
THAT WOULD BE VERY CRUEL.
BUT, YOSHINO,
I DON'T THINK THERE'D BE A GIRL WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE THE DEAD FUWA AIKA AND DIED AROUND THE SAME TIME.
BESIDES, IT IS LIMITED TO THE TIME OF FUWA AIKA'S DEATH.
STEALING A CORPSE ELSEWHERE AND BURYING IT AS ANOTHER GIRL.

YES.
BUT THERE STILL MIGHT BE ANOTHER WAY.
EVEN IF THERE IS...
USING MY LOVE FOR YOU TO MAKE ME DIRTY MY HANDS TO SAVE YOUR LOVER,
ISN'T THAT HORRIBLE?
AH... NO.
THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION.

YOSHINO,
FUWA AIKA WON'T COME BACK TO LIFE.
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS USED,
SHE IS DEAD THROUGH AND THROUGH.
NEITHER YOU, NOR MAHIRO, NOR I,
CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
EVEN THOUGH I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE NICE IF SHE WERE ALIVE,
IT'S TOO ILLOGICAL.

TO BE HONEST,
I WANT TO SAVE HER BECAUSE I LOVE YOU,
BUT I CAN'T SAVE HER, BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
SO...
YOUR WISH IS CRUEL INDEED.



* ACT V SCENE I FROM THE TEMPEST BY SHAKESPEARE

THAT YOU WILL BE HATED...
...FOR KILLING THE GIRLFRIEND OF THE MAN YOU LOVE.
HAKAZE-CHAN,
ISN'T THAT A TRAGEDY?
TO BEGIN WITH, I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HUGE NUMBER OF DEATHS ...
...THAT THE TREE OF GENESIS CAUSED ANYWAY.
IT'S FINE. IT'S FINE.
Even if I am hated, if I can die in a way the man I love will never forget me.
Nothing could be more blissful for a woman than that.
HAAA

WILL IT END WELL?
YEAH.
THERE'S NOTH NG WE CAN DO ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

WILL THIS LEAD TO...
...
THE BEST OUTCOME?

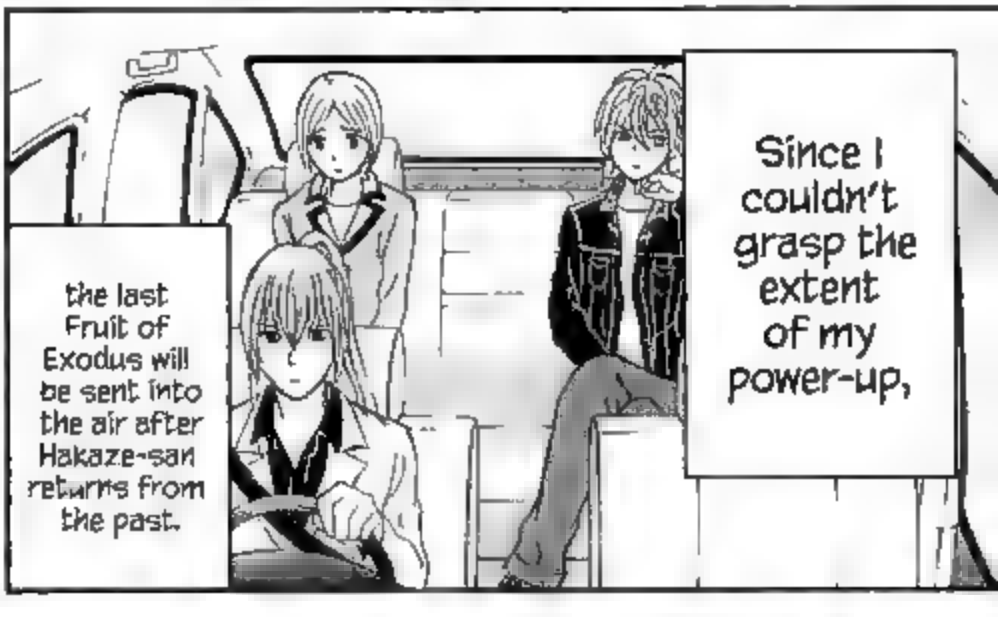
the plan progresses steadily.
Even if I don't know how the situation will turn out,

Samon-san and Hayakawa-san don't oppose her idea.
Ever since then, Manjiro-kun and Yoshino-kun haven't said anything about Hakaze-san's going back to the past.
I have changed too.
I am seldom defeated by Junichirou-san now, a feat I deemed impossible before.

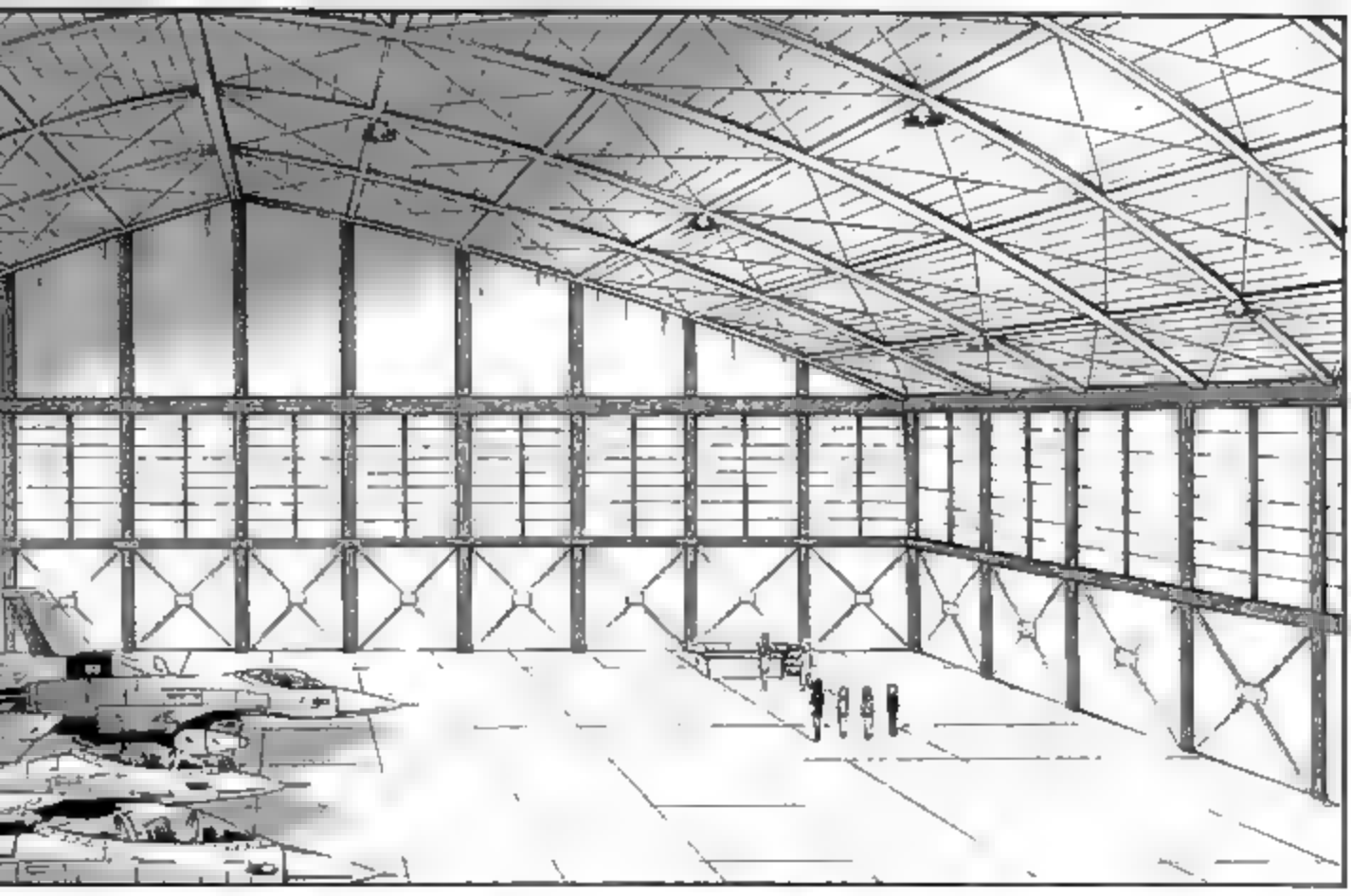
Then...

It feels unreal, but surpassing Junichirou-san is incredible.
Seems like my power-up was an effect from the Tree of Exodus' absorption of the fruit.

ブロォォ

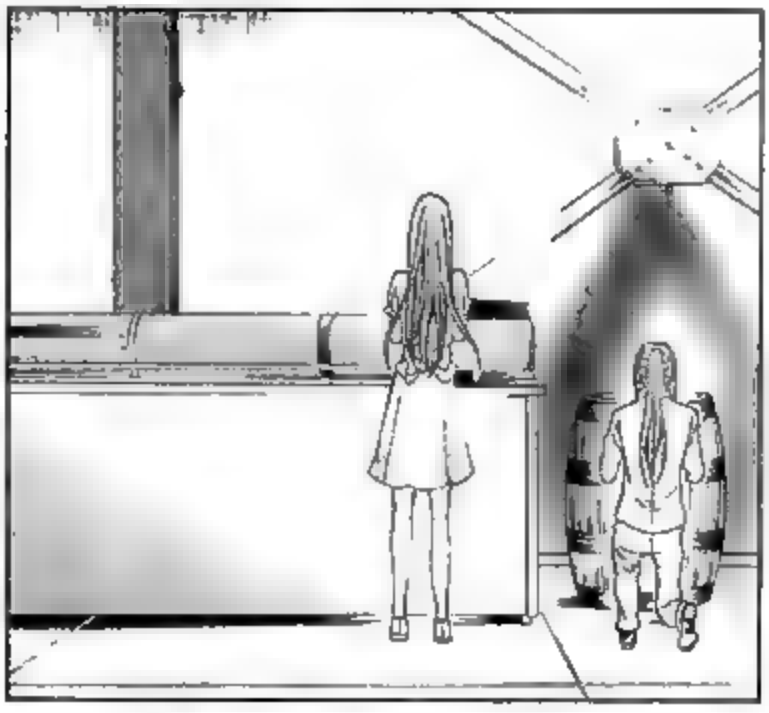

the last Fruit of Exodus will be sent into the air after Hakaze-san returns from the past.
Since I couldn't grasp the extent of my power-up,

in a blink of an eye, the day that Hakaze-san will depart for the past has arrived.
One way or another, 10 days later,



Great tree of ...
Tree of trees...

Heed me...
in my name...



PRINCESS ...
I HAVE ESTABLISHED A LINK TO THE BARREL IN THE PAST

THAT'S BECAUSE THIS BARREL WAS INFUSED WITH POWERFUL COMMUNICATION MAGIC, SINCE IT WAS MEANT TO LINK TO THE PAST FROM THE START
OF COURSE IT IS MORE STABLE THAN THAT MAKESHIFT DOLL.
THAT'S FAST.
THIS DOLL IS RESPONDING, BUT THE SIGNAL IS WEAK.
THAT IS MY DOMAIN.
ス…
BUT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHICH POINT IN THE PAST IT IS LINKED TO.

NOW...
I'LL BE HEADING TO THE PAST FOR A WHILE.
DON'T SLIP UP ...
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

Tree of Trees, Great Tree of Great Trees.
Tree of Genesis from the Genesis!

My name is Kusaribe Hakaze. In my name, heed me!
Transfer this body to the time of my wish now!

ガシャッ
DID SHE ...
...TRAVEL ACROSS TIME SAFELY ...?!

HMPH.
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S BEEN LYING ON THE SAND FOR TOO LONG? IT'S SO TORN UP.
I CAN'T EVEN USE IT AS TEMPORARY UNDERCLOTHES.

Zetsuen no Tempest 7 End

絶園のテンペスト

次巻予告
変えられない過去―。

だが、愛花殺害犯を目撃するために
過去に戻ってきた葉風――…。
第一
そちらより
こちらの方が
何が起こるか
わからんのだ

もし姫様が犯人となれば
お前はどうする？
決まってるよ
最悪のケースは二つ―。
葉風をこの手で殺す
約束通りだ
吉野「絶園の魔法使い疑惑」が本当だった時、
……理由次第では葉風さんを責めませんし真広にも殺させません
そしてもうひとつは葉風が愛花を殺した時…。
もう誰が殺すとか殺されるとかたくさんです

太平洋に何の前兆もなく現れた。
あれは…
「樹」……？
あまりにも非現実的に巨大で神々しい
「はじまりの樹」のコアブロック…!!

幹は直径一キロ以上

高さは成層圏を越えて百キロ以上に達してるだと……!?

この出現で世界はどうなるのか…?

「はじまりの樹」はどういう形であれ

これで終わりをもたらそうとしてるのか?

そして、葉風は愛花に出会い

真実のすべてを知ることが出来るのか!?

［絶園のテンペスト］第8巻へ続く!!

To be continued

原作者あとがき

第二十話の最後でフロイライン山本が口にする「あまりに進んだ科学は魔法と区別がつかない」という法則は、クラークの第二法則と呼ばれるもので、SF作家として有名なアーサー・C・クラークの提唱によるものです。

この法則の影響かどうか定かではありませんが、魔法やら魔物やらが出てくるのでファンタジーと思って読んでいたら、最後になってSFであることが明らかになる、という作品がいくつもあります。それを隠しておくこと自体がひとつの趣向なので具体的な作品名は挙げられませんが案外多くあるものです。

城平京です。第七巻です。物語はかなり真実らしいこと、その背景にあるものが見えてきた感じです。終わりが近そうですね。それはさておき、私はこの「絶園のテンペスト」という物語を実はファンタジーというより、「伝奇SF」として作ってきたつもりです。

日本において伝奇小説というのは、実際の歴史を踏まえつつも魔人、妖人、怪人が入り乱れ、時には超自然の力も振るわれる、波瀾万丈な時代小説を指して使われ始めたようですが、昨今では現代が舞台であっても、そういった時代小説が使っていたガジェットや設定、背景、神話や伝承をもとにしたスケールの大きい作品もまた「伝奇」といったジャンルで表現されているようです。

その「伝奇」的な物語にSF的な解釈や広がりを加えたものを「伝奇SF」と称するとそれほど間違いはないかと思われます。もともとは「石の血脈」という半村良作品に「伝奇ロマン」というキャッチフレーズがつけられたことが「伝奇SF」というジャンルの始まりとも言えそうです。でも間違っていたらすみません。

「絶園のテンペスト」は本巻において、「魔法」という言葉で連想されるファンタジーから、二つの樹に対し蛇神・龍神伝承を引用しつつSF的な解釈を提示することによって伝奇SFの外枠を表に出すこととなりました。別に本作をファンタジーと呼んでも構わないですし、「伝奇SF」と紹介すると後半の展開がばれてしまいかねないので、これまでジャンルに関しては適当にごまかしてきた次第です。

ジェイクスピアの「ハムレット」や「テンペスト」だけでなく、クラークの第二法則に伝奇SFと内蔵しているものがわかるにつれいっそうややこしく思えてくる本作ですが何とか伏線を回収して決着させる予定でおります。

次巻において、ほぼ全ての真実が明らかになります。二つの樹の存在理由、そして愛花の死の真相。犯人は誰で、動機は何か。ちょっとだけ謎解きミステリっぽく展開します。

では第八巻でお会いできることを祈りつつ。

城平京

(毎月12日発売)にて
大人気連載中!!

月刊少年ガンガン

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絶園のテンペスト

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by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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